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THE TERMS OF PEACE.

Poor France! Her cup of affliction is indeed full to overflowing; and her conquerors seem determined that she shall drain it even to the very dregs. She sinned grievously; and grievously hath she had to answer it, for she lies under the heel of a hard master. Not only their own sins, but those of their fathers, are now being visited upon the present generation of Frenchmen, who have found neither strength in their arms nor mercy in their fall. Retribution is being exacted for the wrongs perpetrated by the First Napoleon as well for those designed by the Third of that name. On no other grounds is it possible to account for the terrible severity of the conditions forced upon M. Thiers and his colleagues, except on the supposition that the Prussians are taking revenge for old wrongs as well as for recently-intended injuries; though it is odd that the Emperor-King's piety did not teach him that vengeance belongs not to humanity—not even to Monarchs who rule by right Divine. *Vae victis* is the motto of Germany, that is clear; and so she has inflicted upon France terms of peace only a little less calamitous than war—terms such as scarcely ever were inflicted upon a conquered people before.

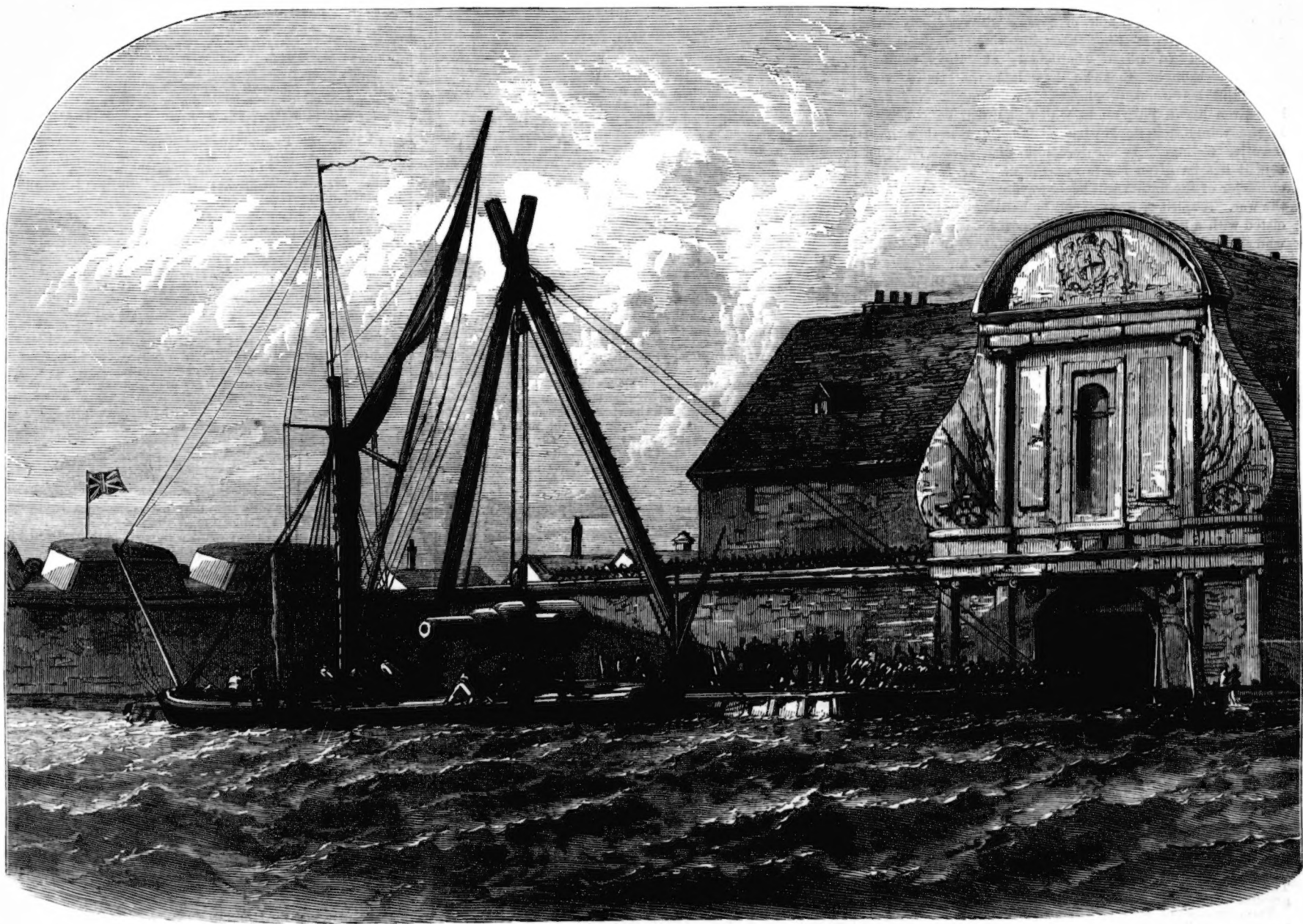
Much has been said of late about generosity and magnanimity, and the duty of Germany to practise these virtues towards her beaten foe. We never believed in the exercise of either quality; for what have generosity and magnanimity to do with war? And, moreover, these are qualities for which the rulers of Prussia, at all events, have never been

conspicuous. But we did hope that so astute a statesman as Count Bismarck would have had regard to the dictates of sound policy. He and his master may, perhaps, be fairly acquitted of any obligation to care for the future position of France in Europe, but they were surely bound to take some heed for the future peace and welfare of Germany. And we cannot see that the peace just concluded at Versailles is likely to durably secure either. France has been denuded of a large tract of territory that had long been hers: is she likely to permanently acquiesce in the denudation? Some two millions of Frenchmen have been forcibly incorporated with a people they loathe and detest: is it probable that they will quietly submit to the process of assimilation? Henceforth Germany has within her bounds an element of discord and of danger. Alsace and Lorraine may—most likely will—prove thorns in the side of the revived Empire within; while France—vindictive, and possibly rehabilitated—will be an ever present trouble from without. The fruits reaped from conquest are ever bitter to the taste; and Germany may hereafter find her new acquisitions more troublesome to keep than they were to get.

We dare say the Germans and their rulers have few fears on that score at present. Flushed with unparalleled success, they may feel confident of their power to hold what they have won; but the world's experience does not greatly warrant their confidence. England and Ireland, Russia and Poland, Austria and Italy—yea, Prussia and Posen—might have taught Count Bismarck a lesson of wise moderation, if not of mercy, and suggested to

him that the subjection of unwilling peoples is ever a source of weakness, not of strength. Nor does lapse of time always mitigate the evil. Seven hundred years have now passed since Strongbow landed in Ireland; and how to govern and content the Irish is still England's difficulty. It is ninety-eight years since the first partition of Poland; and the Poles are no more reconciled to the domination of Russia, or the Poseners to that of Prussia, than they were in the days of Kosciusko. One hundred and sixty-four years ago (in 1706) the house of Austria first obtained a firm footing in Italy by the acquisition of Milan; and during all that period the Hapsburgs found their position there one of continuous trouble. Austria has now lost her Italian provinces, and is stronger and happier for the loss. Germany has now acquired Alsace and Lorraine; that she will be stronger or happier for the acquisition may well be doubted.

Circumstances and conditions may possibly be deemed more favourable to German success in North-Eastern France than they were to Austria in Northern Italy. The grounds for this notion, if it really exist, are worth a little consideration. Germany has, it is true, the most perfect military organisation in the world; but military organisations are not immortal, and in the hour of need have failed even greater Empires than that of Germany. Ancient Rome had the most perfect military organisation the universe has ever seen, and in virtue of that organisation she conquered the then known world; but that system did not save her from falling before the assaults of Alaric and his Visigoths. Germany has now what she may



DEFENCES OF THE THAMES: LANDING HEAVY GUNS AT TILBURY FORT.



deem a triple line of defence against the attacks of France: first, the Vosges mountains; second, the chain of fortresses including Thionville, Metz, and Strasburg; and, third, the fortresses of the Rhine, including Mayence, Ehrenbreitstein, and Cologne. But the famous Quadrilateral did not preserve Venetia to Austria in 1866, and her fortresses have availed France but little in 1870-1. France, no doubt, is at present terribly weakened; but not more so than Germany was between 1800 and 1813, and certainly less so, relatively to Germany now, than was Italy to Austria from 1849 till 1860; and yet Germany has conquered and Italy has grown and prospered—the one over France, the other mainly at the expense of Austria. The turn of France may come again, and then the successors of William the Pious and Bismarck the Inexorable may find the dragons' teeth with which the soil of Gaul has now been so plentifully seeded yielding a still more plentiful crop of Furies to vex the Fatherland.

In fine, France, bruised, broken, exhausted, and bleeding, must submit to the conqueror's dictates; she cannot help herself. Territory must be yielded; fortresses must be given up; an enormous war indemnity must be paid; the occupation of the capital must be borne; and the presence of German soldiers on French soil, and their maintenance there, must be endured for a season. But that France should rest contented with this position seems impossible; she will submit only till she deems herself strong enough to try another fall. The peace of Versailles, we fear, is likely only to prove a truce of longer or shorter duration. Should Germany (which is not impossible, for the lust of conquest grows by that it feeds on) become involved in further wars of aggression, and difficulties beset her path (which, too, is not impossible, for aggression makes many enemies and few friends), France's opportunity will occur; and we may be sure she will not be slow to take advantage of it; and, further, it is something more than probable that she would have the sympathy at least, if not the active help, of other peoples in her efforts to upset the settlement of 1871. On the whole, then, we think a policy of moderation—we say nothing of magnanimity or generosity—would have been better for Germany in particular, and better for Europe in general, than the Shylockian course Count Bismarck has thought fit to pursue. Perhaps we cannot do better than close our present remarks on this sad chapter of European history by quoting the following passage from an article that has appeared in the *Times* since the above was written. Our contemporary says:—"If the German view of the French character were accurate, we should be forced to despair of the future. One of the fairest fields of Europe is given over to noxious weeds that cannot be uprooted, and must be constantly cut down. The use of the scythe must be continually repeated; for it is vain to think that a people so frivolous, so conceited, and so covetous of conquest, will not after short intervals be tempted to believe that their turn of victory is come. We are, indeed, not without hope that, in spite of Count Bismarck, the people of France will gradually learn to rise superior to their besetting sins, but it is impossible not to be overburdened at this moment with the thought that he has laid the trains that will fulfil his worst prophecies. Is France fickle? He has given her a purpose to which she will be constant. Is she vainglorious? He has wounded her in her most sensitive feelings. Is she incapable of gratitude? What benefit has he given her to remember? The faults of the character of the nation will be aggravated by the legacies of the war. A spirit of revenge will be hallowed by being associated with a legitimate desire to recover back Frenchmen who are unwillingly torn from France. Motives of patriotism will constantly urge the nation to prepare for an effort to overcome their enemies in another struggle. In the progress of Europe these feelings in France, like the feelings that answer to them in Germany, may die out, because influences will arise to set aside the powers that now prevail; but the men of this generation can believe in this future only by an exercise of faith, so dark and unpromising is the prospect."

RE-ARMING OF TILBURY FORT.

We lately published some Engravings illustrative of the forts erected for the defence of the Thames and Medway; and we are now enabled to state that the arming of these forts is being vigorously carried on. The guns to be mounted are of the new pattern, recently thoroughly tested and approved. The guns are made of different weights, according to the positions which they are to occupy, but all are of similar construction. The heaviest pieces are probably intended for the naval service, though guns of great power are likewise to be mounted on the fortifications that have been constructed for the defence of our coasts at such places as Chatham, Tilbury, Portsmouth, Plymouth, &c. We have not been able to ascertain the calibre of the cannon to be mounted at Tilbury, the officials there, for obvious reasons, being very reticent on the subject; but a description of the new great Woolwich gun will suffice for the whole, the only difference being as regards size. This piece, which is known as the 35-ton gun, or "Woolwich Infant," is without exception the most formidable firearm that has ever been constructed; for, though by no means the largest and heaviest in existence, there is every reason to suppose that its capabilities will far exceed those of any other gun, not excepting even the celebrated Krupp cannon of the Prussian artillery. This weapon is built up of six separate pieces, upon a system invented by Mr. Fraser, one of the chief officers of the Government factory at Woolwich; each portion of the gun being carefully wrought and separately finished before the pieces are fitted together to make a perfect whole. The core of the gun is of steel, and round this are fitted strong jackets of wrought iron, which, as a matter of course, increase materially the strength of the gun, and render it of a tougher and less brittle nature than if manufactured entirely of cast steel. One of these jackets, termed the breech coil, alone weighed twenty-five tons, and required to be heated in a furnace for more than a day before it was in a state ready for manipulation under a heavy steam hammer. The finished gun measures 16½ ft. in length, and 56 in. at its greatest diameter.

The operation of proving this gun, which was recently performed in the Woolwich marshes, leads us to expect some very advantageous results from its employment. The shot projected weighs 700 lb., and this was fired with different charges of gun-

powder varying from 75 lb. to 130 lb. The gun withstood the trial successfully, and, with a charge of 100 lb. of powder, sent the big iron bolt upwards of 30 ft. into the earthen butt, with a velocity that was estimated at 1320 ft. per second. This speed was further increased by employing a still larger charge, and it was computed that, at an angle of 30 deg., the gun would be capable of projecting a shell of the same weight as the solid shot to a distance of 10,000 yards, or nearly six miles; while at a range of 2000 yards the bulwarks of the heaviest ironclad afloat could be pierced.

It is contemplated by the Admiralty to employ guns of this description in the Navy, and the success of this first specimen has caused the authorities to proceed at once with the manufacture of ten more of similar dimensions. They are intended to be used in the three large breast-monitors now building. Two of these ships, the *Thunderer* and *Devastation*, are of 4400 tons burden; and the other, the *Fury*, is of 5000 tons. Each vessel is to carry four of the 35-ton guns, in two turrets, two guns being placed side by side in each turret.

These guns are to be mounted upon Captain R. Scott's patent turret carriages, of which a large number are in course of construction at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich. Three or four of the 35-ton gun carriages will be ready in about two months, but the vessels will not be completed till some time later. The 18-ton gun, mounted upon Captain Scott's patent broadside carriage, has been adopted for all ordinary naval heavy guns. The arrangements for pointing and working the 18-ton gun are also applied to all heavy broadside guns from 9 tons weight up to the single 25-ton gun mounted in the Hotspur. By these means two men can point with the greatest nicety either the 12-ton or the 18-ton gun, in moderate weather; but in very rough weather four men are necessary for laying the larger gun with accuracy. The safe handling of these heavy guns in a sea-way is secured by means of a powerful brake.

The largest turret-guns now afloat are those in the *Monarch*, which has four in number, each of 25 tons weight; while the turret-guns of the *Cerberus* and other monitors are of 18 tons weight. The only other 25-ton gun afloat is that in the *Hotspur*—making a total of five 25-ton naval guns afloat. As yet, there are only two broadside vessels which carry guns of greater weight than 12 tons. These are the *Hercules*, attached to the Channel Squadron, and the *Sultan*, each of which mounts eight 18-ton guns in its central main-deck batteries. The *Sultan's* four upper-deck carriages for her 12-ton guns are of a similar pattern to those described.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

Paris, for several days before the German occupation, was in a very excited state; and in reference to the condition of things, the following proclamation of MM. Thiers and Picard was posted up on Monday:—

Inhabitants of Paris.—The Government appeals to your patriotism and wisdom. You have in your hands the fate of Paris. Upon you it depends to save or destroy France herself. After an heroic resistance famine compelled us to give up the forts to the victorious enemy. The army which could have helped us was driven back beyond the Loire, and incontestable facts obliged the Government and the National Assembly to open negotiations. During six days the negotiators fought foot by foot, and did what was humanly possible to obtain the most favourable conditions, and have signed the preliminaries, which will be submitted to the National Assembly. During the time necessary for the examination and discussion of these preliminaries, hostilities would have recommenced and blood would have needlessly been shed, had the armistice not been prolonged. This prolongation could only be obtained on the condition of a partial and very temporary occupation of a quarter of Paris. If the Convention be not respected the armistice will be broken, and the enemy, already master of the forts, will occupy in strong force the entire city. Private property, the works of art, and the public monuments are guaranteed to-day, but should the Convention cease to be in force misfortune will await the whole of France. The fearful ravages of war, which hitherto have not extended beyond the Loire, will then extend to the Pyrenees. It is absolutely true to say that the safety of Paris affects the whole of France. Do not imitate the fault of those who did not wish us to believe eight months ago that the war would be so fatal. The French army which defended Paris with so much courage will occupy the left of the Seine, and will ensure the loyal execution of the new armistice. The National Guard will undertake to maintain order in the rest of the city as good and honoured citizens who have shown themselves to be brave in the face of the enemy, and this cruel situation will end in peace and the return of public prosperity.

M. Jules Favre has addressed a letter, dated the 22nd ult., to his late colleagues the members of the Government of National Defence, in which he refers to the friendship he entertains for them, and says he could have wished that in the transformation going on they could all have remained on an equal footing in the service of the Republic. It required an imperious necessity, he adds, to make him consent to the change.

A letter is said to have been addressed by the Count de Paris to a friend in Bordeaux, in which the writer states that he has no thought of personal ambition, but will labour sincerely to obtain what may appear best calculated to ensure to France the free, stable, and honest government she needs.

The bases of a Government scheme for the military reorganisation of France are said to be as follows:—The army will be disbanded *en bloc*; the officers of all ranks of the regular army will only be retained on their passing an examination proving them to be really worthy; the class of 1871 will constitute the nucleus of a fresh army, in which promotion by seniority and favour will be abolished, and no rank, high or low, be attainable without a public examination in the camps, to which all specially military schools will be transferred. Administrative reorganisation on an extensive scale is also projected, chiefly with the view of simplifying the present system, or abolishing sinecures, reducing the number of officials and distributing them better over the different departments.

A petition is being signed in the northern departments asking that the National Assemblies of France may not again meet in Paris.

Despatches from Algiers announce an insurrection among the Arabs, which, however, had been completely suppressed. Perfect tranquillity prevails in Algiers.

BELGIUM.

A Ministerial decree, dated the 23rd ult., has been published conferring on the Protestant and Jewish Churches in Belgium the advantages of civil corporations, of which they shall not at any time be capable of being deprived.

HOLLAND.

The final Budget for 1871 was presented on Tuesday in the Second Chamber. It is proposed, prior to ulterior settlement, to issue Treasury bonds to the amount of nine millions and a half of florins to cover the expenditure. The Income Tax Bill has been withdrawn. The Minister of War insisted upon the necessity of improving and reorganising the military system, in furtherance of which he announced his intention of laying before the Chamber bills with that object.

SPAIN.

The Queen of Spain, being sufficiently recovered, is about to resume her journey to Madrid.

A letter from Madrid says that General Espartero, Duke of Victory, has sent in a sincere adhesion to King Amadeus, and has promised to go to Madrid to see him as soon as his health will permit of his undertaking the journey. The Conde di Caste (formerly Captain-General of Catalonia), the Conde de Calonge, and the Marquis de Novaliches, who led the troops of Ysabella Segunda at Alcolea, where he was defeated and received a dangerous wound, have refused to swear fealty to the new Sovereign. They have been placed under arrest in their own houses, and have been ordered to give their parole not to leave Madrid. By the laws of Spain they can be deprived of their rank in the army and banished from Spain; but it is supposed the King will remit the latter penalty. They are said to be men wholly

without influence in the country, representing, as they do, extreme absolutism.

Several persons have been arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the attempt to assassinate Signor Zorilla.

GERMANY.

The Emperor-King thus announces the signature of the preliminaries of peace, in a telegram to the Empress-Queen, dated Feb. 26:—"With deeply-moved heart and with thankfulness to the grace of God, I inform you that the preliminaries of peace have just been signed. They have yet to be ratified by the National Assembly at Bordeaux."

The Emperor of Germany has sent a telegram to the Emperor of Russia announcing the signature of the preliminaries of peace. Prussia will never forget, his Majesty says, that she owes it to the Emperor of Russia that the war did not assume extreme dimensions. In reply, the latter says he has been happy to prove his sympathy as a devoted friend.

The magistrates have received instructions to make preparations for the reception of troops; as, besides the Prussian, the Saxon, Bavarian, Wurtemberg, and Baden troops will pass through Berlin, it being the intention of the Emperor-King that at the entry of the German army all the nationalities of which it is composed shall be represented.

GREECE.

According to a despatch from Athens, Mr. Erskine has communicated to the Greek Government a despatch from Lord Granville maintaining that the inquiry relative to the Marathon massacre is insufficient, and demanding a fresh investigation, comprising the officials who have already been acquitted by the previous judgment.

EGYPT.

One of the dragomans of the Spanish Consulate at Cairo lately made a complaint of having been maltreated by the Egyptian police, to whom he had been to claim a bond. The Spanish Consul made a demand that the chief of the police should be dismissed, to which the Egyptian Government replied by proposing that an investigation should first be made before two Consuls into the facts of the case, promising full satisfaction should the evidence brought forward prove that the dragoman's charge was made out. The Spanish Consul having declined the investigation, the Egyptian Government has consulted all the Consuls-General, who have declared that the offer of an investigation made by the Government was entirely justified. This affair is stated to be in a fair way to be arranged. The representative of a great Power has offered to mediate. The Spanish Government have accepted the offer, and it is believed that the Khedive has also agreed to it. It is anticipated, therefore, that the dispute will be promptly settled in a satisfactory manner.

AMERICA.

The High Commission met for the first time on Monday, at the State Department at Washington. The proceedings were secret. Sir S. Northcote, Sir J. Macdonald, and Mr. Hoar were absent. A letter from the Earl of Kimberley to the Governor-General of Canada, urging that the claims arising from the Fenian invasion should be brought before the High Joint Commission, is attracting much attention. Several journals state that the Administration of Washington will oppose such a consideration of the subject.

The House of Representatives, by a two-thirds vote, has passed a bill for the repeal of the duty on coal. The price of coal and coke has been raised by miners' strikes and speculators' combinations to 20 dols. per ton.

Secretary Boutwell has appointed the following agents to negotiate the new United States loan abroad:—The Messrs. Rothschild in London, Paris, and Frankfurt; the Messrs. Baring, London; Drexel, Harges, and Co., Paris; Hope and Co., Becker and Fuld, Amsterdam; Morton, Rose, and Co., and Cook, McCulloch, and Co., London.

THE FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

RATIFICATION OF THE TERMS OF PEACE.

M. THIERS reached Bordeaux about two o'clock on Tuesday afternoon. The Assembly shortly afterwards met, and the conditions of peace were immediately laid before the members. In the midst of the most profound silence M. Thiers rose and spoke as follows:—"We have accepted a painful mission, and after having used all possible endeavours, we come with regret to submit for your approval a bill for which we ask urgency. 'Art. 1. The National Assembly, forced by necessity, is not responsible, and adopts the Preliminaries of Peace signed at Versailles, on Feb. 26.'" At this point M. Thiers was overpowered by his feelings, and obliged to descend from the Tribune, and leave the room. M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire continued to read the Preliminaries:—

"1. France renounces in favour of the German Empire the following rights:—The fifth part of Lorraine, including Metz and Thionville, and Alsace less Belfort.

"2. France will pay the sum of five milliards of francs, of which one milliard is to be paid in 1871, and the remaining four milliards by instalments extending over three years.

"3. The German troops will begin to evacuate the French territory as soon as the treaty is ratified. They will then evacuate the interior of Paris and some departments lying in the western region. The evacuation of the other departments will take place gradually after payment of the first milliard, and proportionately to the payment of the other four milliards.

"Interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum will be paid on the amount remaining due from the date of the ratification of the treaty.

"4. The German troops will not levy any requisitions in the departments occupied by them, but will be maintained at the cost of France.

"5. A delay will be granted to the inhabitants of the territories annexed to choose between the two nationalities.

"6. Prisoners of war will be immediately set at liberty.

"7. Negotiations for a definitive treaty of peace will be opened at Brussels after the ratification of the treaty.

"8. The administration of the departments occupied by the German troops will be intrusted to the French officials, but under the control of the chiefs of the German corps of occupation.

"9. The present treaty confers upon the Germans no rights whatever in the portion of territories not occupied.

"10. The treaty will have to be ratified by the National Assembly of France."

After the terms of peace had been read, M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire, in the name of the Government, asked the Assembly to enter upon the discussion of the treaty at once. This was opposed by M. Tolain, one of the members for Paris, who declared that the conditions of peace were too shameful to be accepted. Ultimately, after an appeal to the patriotism of the House by M. Thiers, the proposal was carried, and it was decided that the terms of peace should be taken into consideration next day. There was a very large attendance of members during the debate. While the conditions of peace were being read a mournful silence was maintained.

The Assembly met again on Wednesday at one p.m., and great emotion appeared to prevail among all the members. Many ladies in black were in the galleries. Numerous protests against the cession of territory had been deposited in the bureaux of the President.

M. Victor Lefranc, the Reporter of the Commission, then read the report which had been unanimously adopted by the Commission. It recommended the Assembly to accept the preliminaries of peace submitted to them by the Government as they were. M. Lefranc said that the Commission did not propose any alteration in the negotiations, and that they had done everything that was possible to ameliorate the conditions and to avoid the grievous cession of territory; but they had to think of the situation of

Paris and the threats of the enemy, who had so cruelly forgotten the rights of the peoples. The occupation of Paris was also very grievous, but it was an inevitable calamity. He added:—"The actual misfortunes we are suffering are the result of causes for which we are not answerable, but the honour of France is safe (At this point loud protests were heard from the benches of the Left). Nevertheless, Europe will not allow us to be disarmed or crushed. That calculation is baffled. For the present, what we have to do is to put a stop to the scourge of invasion. In the future, we have to repair the past, neither throwing ourselves into the arms of revolution nor taking refuge in Caesarism" (Loud murmurs). In conclusion, M. Lefranc said:—"The Commission had for an instant been seduced by the idea of allowing the enemy latitude to do what he would, and leaving to the judgment of Europe and of equity to decide between us; but, with the forts of Paris in the occupation of the Germans, our armies disorganised, and our lines everywhere threatened, the Commission would not have recourse to such an irreparable act of despair, which would have ruined Paris, and France would have been immolated without having been consulted. If you refuse to accept these preliminaries, Paris is occupied and the whole of France will be invaded, and God only knows what disasters will ensue. We do not, then, counsel you to abandon yourselves to despair. Whatever may happen, France will retain her right of fulfilling her mission in the world (Ironical cheers). The Commission considers that in the present circumstances abstention from voting on the part of members will be a desertion of duty and an abdication of responsibility."

The Assembly was much agitated. M. Edgar Quinet protested strongly against the acceptance of the preliminaries, as such conditions would destroy the present and future of France. M. Bamberger, deputy from the department of the Moselle, adjured the Assembly to reject the conditions, and concluded his speech by a condemnation of Napoleon III. Violent agitation ensued upon M. Conti, late Chief of the Emperor's Cabinet, attempting to justify the Empire. The Assembly enthusiastically and unanimously voted by acclamation a resolution confirming the fall of the Empire and stigmatising Napoleon III. as responsible for the present misfortunes of France. Victor Hugo made a magnificent speech against the ratification of the preliminaries. The Assembly voted the ratification of the preliminaries of peace by 546 against 107 votes.

THE GERMANS IN PARIS.

THE entry of the German troops into Paris took place on Wednesday. In accordance with the announcement already made, the leading journals did not appear. There were but few people in the streets, all the shops were closed, and the windows were shut. The aspect of the city is described as most gloomy and mournful. Up to mid-day no disturbances had been reported. The demeanour of the people of Paris is said to have been very dignified and admirable. The advanced body of German troops which entered the Champs Elysées consisted of from 3000 to 4000 men. Their appearance is said to have been very fine and soldier-like. A double line of sentinels prevented the people from passing the limits respectively assigned to the French and German troops. Paris was not so agitated on Tuesday as it had been on Monday, and the more moderate portion of the population did all in their power to allay the excitement. There was, however, a great deal of excitement in several districts.

The special correspondent of the *Daily News* telegraphs the following account of what he saw on Wednesday forenoon:—

"The Prussians are in Paris at last. The first made his appearance at the Arc de Triomphe at a quarter to nine this morning. He took possession in the usual Prussian manner. One Uhlan came first, then two or more. In a minute or two others followed. My special Uhlan of this forenoon is a grand, big man, mounted upon a superb brown horse. He is in advance of some comrades, six or seven riding abreast. They are coming up the Avenue of the Grand Army, and are apparently not in a hurry. My Uhlan gives a look about, gazes up at the Triumphal Arch, trots his steed around it, as if looking for the way under it, and, apparently not clear how he is to pass beneath the grand arch, turns his horse's head, and gallops back to his friends. The group presses forward, and at the Arc de Triomphe the same manoeuvre is repeated. Their disappointment at being balked of their desire to pass under it like conquering heroes is too manifest not to be very noticeable; but, putting the best face (a somewhat wry one) upon a clear case of *non possumus*, they gallop off, full tear, down the Avenue des Champs Elysées, and soon disappear. At a considerable distance in their rear comes a dense black mass. We hear the shrill notes of the fife, with a drum accompaniment. This is the advanced guard of the 30,000 conquering heroes who are coming to occupy the city which famine has surrendered into their hands."

"The space around the foot of the arch has been throughout the siege a favourite popular resort. From this site a good view of Mont Valérien is obtained, and it commands the entire Avenue of the Grand Army. At most times, therefore, considerable groups assemble here; but this morning they were extremely thin, and composed chiefly of boys, a very few women, and about fifty men having the appearance of artisans on their way to their daily labour. Not a shout was raised by them—not a gesture escaped them—when the Uhlans appeared; but when these seemed to be seeking a way of passing beneath the arch, one of the group exclaimed, 'Ah, mais fichez-vous-en,' which, being interpreted into similar class vernacular, means, 'Don't you wish you may get it? Just try it on.'"

"As I desired to witness as much as possible of the entry from the Place de la Concorde, and to inspect the left bank of the Seine, with a view to ascertain what military precautions had been taken by the French authorities, I hurried across the Champs Elysées, making my way over the Pont des Invalides to the esplanade bearing the same name. The line was guarded by the gendarmes. In the square in front of the Hôtel des Invalides were sailors, troops of the Line, and Mobs grouped about, apparently awaiting instructions. The officers were astounded to learn that the Prussians had already entered; and nothing short of a positive assurance to this effect, upon the faith and honour of an eye-witness, convinced them of the fact. We stood chatting with a little knot of them for the space of, perhaps, five minutes, endeavouring to ascertain their views as to any probability of a collision. Before we quitted them we perceived that the intelligence of which we were the first reporters was rapidly spreading. In less than five minutes it had passed from mouth to mouth all through the assembled military. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs we found strongly guarded by the gendarmes, who also occupied the courtyard of the Chamber of Deputies and the Pont de la Concorde. At the foot of this bridge, on the Champs Elysées side, we came upon a double barricade, consisting of empty artillery caissons, interlaced and placed transversely, each some ten paces from the other. Across the Quay of the Tuileries, at the point surmounted by that eccentric quadruped called 'Le Lion bon Enfant,' the good-natured lion who smiles benignly from the summit of his pedestal upon the passer-by, there was another similar obstacle."

"Crossing the Place de la Concorde we notice that the gates of the Tuileries are closed. Some thirty soldiers are inquisitively peeping through the iron rails, like civilised animals in a cage, at my Uhlans, who have by this time reached the end of the Champs Elysées and taken up their station, three on each side, close under the group of statuary known as the Horses of Marly. I observe that the face of the statues representing the cities of France are veiled with black cloth bordered with white. Strasbourg is grim with faded immortelles garlands. The pretty group some time ago placed in front of her, illustrative of her heroic defence by General Urich, has been removed. At the top of the Rue de Rivoli, abutting upon the Rue St. Florentin, there is another barricade similarly constructed to the others. Across the top of the Rue Royale there is yet another. Beyond there the Prussians may not pass. On the Place de la Concorde are some fifty persons,

perhaps even more. They are lost in the midst of that vast space. A couple of Uhlans have been galloping about reconnoitring the position. They have had a look at the bridge; at the amiable lion; they have seen that the Tuileries are closed; that the Rue de Rivoli and the Rue Royale are closed against them. Their impression certainly is that they are to occupy the Rue du Faubourg St. Honoré. So, too, thought everybody in Paris, for so it had been announced."

"They are convinced of their error when they attempt to turn into the Rue Bussy d'Anglais, where a cordon of sentinels, soldiers of the Line, is drawn up. The Uhlans turn tail to rejoin their friends in the Grand Avenue. On their passage sundry blackguards, who are enjoying what coolness there is in this muggy morning, conjointly with a short pipe, take the pipes from their mouths in order to give free course to a volley of epithets not at all complimentary to the Uhlans, supplemented by shouts of derision and cries of 'Vive la République!' The few people on the place take up the cry. The Uhlans turn their heads, but take no heed. Not so the National Guards at the top of the Rue Royale. One of the officers calls a few of his men together as though for the purpose of operating a clearance. When the Uhlans appear the blackguards in the crowd resume their late performance; but a quick movement of the Uhlans towards the place puts the temporary occupants to flight. The loud-voiced blackguards are the first to push away helter-skelter, their eyes showing defiance, their feet the white feather very conspicuously. The Uhlans appear amused."

"Their demonstration is not a hostile one. They have come only to take up certain positions assigned to them. They are followed by others, who proceed to do the same. The detachment is presently sprinkled all over the Place, at its commanding points. Attracted by the sound of fife and drums, undeterred by the patriotic reproaches of the Captain of the National Guard already referred to, who wondered how I could be out to-day witnessing the enemy triumph when every good citizen ought to be at home, I made for the spot whence the sounds proceeded."

"Beyond the Palais de l'Industrie I came up with the first batch of the conquering heroes. Their triumphal entry was not graced at the spot where I stood by many vanquished patriots. One was a woman of very doubtful aspect. Another witness was an elderly gentleman, in a very snuffy coat decorated with much that ought not to have been there. He looked with an air of blank indifference. I think he must have snuffed out all natural sentiment. His cry was, 'And to think I have seen these brutes come into our Paris for the third time. Ah! it is enough to make one mad.' The ancient gentleman added for my information that he had belonged to the relic of the old Imperial Guards, distinguished as the Brigands of the Loire. I did not offer any remark to his observation. When a gentleman tells you his blood is up to the raging point it is best not to exasperate his feelings by the smallest remark. I concentrated my attention, therefore, upon the conquering heroes. There they were, boldly marching down the Champs Elysées, in the midst of that Paris which Trochu declared its Governor would never surrender, which he did not surrender until he was no longer its Governor. There they were, and I could see them, hear them, touch them if I chose; even smell them in spite of choice, if I leeward, for their boots had been freshly blackened with train oil. A fine body of men they are, belonging—I am told by a citizen, who is very positive, that they are Bavarians—to the 11th Corps, but who is contradicted with much authority by another citizen, equally positive, who affirms them to be real live Prussians proper. Here a third citizen chimes in, asserting to us all that they are Pomeranians or Poseners, but neither Prussians nor Bavarians. Amidst so many opinions, I begin to doubt of their nationality, until I remember they belong to the new Emperor of Germany; and I therefore specially conclude, under any circumstances, they are Germans. On they come: first, a squadron of cavalry—the horses frisky, the men strong and proud riders; next, a band of fifers and drummers; but the drums are odd-looking instruments, and have no resonance—not good, honest, bass-voiced drums, but hybrids between a double tambourine, less the tinkling brass, and a kettledrum with the bulbous end cut off. The tune is not lively, but the time is perfect, and acts upon the sympathetic system of the conquering heroes, for they walk the time—one, two—with metronomic accuracy, striking their heel into the ground at every step, as though when they put their foot down they meant it to be firmly set. They are wonderfully got up for the occasion, their big boots freshly greased; their spiked helmets brilliant as rotten-stone and elbow-grease can make them; their accoutrements furnished up; their faces clean and brilliant with soap and health. Their bold bearing as genuine conquering heroes produce a marked impression upon the gazers. They look as though they had profited immensely by living on the fat of France. They move as if by machinery. Seeing how regularly they march, I am inclined to believe in the existence of some mysterious connection between their anatomy and the band of fifers and drummers. They, too, are a piece of clockwork. Both crowd up at the same time; both are bound to go together, and are wound up together. Habit has become so natural that, were neither wound up, each would go on quite as well without, from the mere force of habit. The officers, in their way, seem quite as mechanical. They live and have their being upon the same principle of accuracy of movement. Stiff in saddle and stiff in speech they are obeying stiffly. One of them shouts 'Halt.' Not a man budges. They are stopped instantaneously."

"I compute the number of the advanced guard of the conquering heroes at about two thousand. I leave them in the middle of the Champs Elysées, taking a rest and waiting for their comrades, whose shining helmets are now just visible in the far distance. I make for the Rue du Faubourg St. Honoré, by the Avenue de Marigny. On reaching the corner of the Rue d'Elysée, the street which runs parallel with the Avenue only on the eastern side of the palace, there was a slight commotion. Four Uhlans have come up, and they want to pass into the prohibited quarter. The cordon of sentinels stops the way. The Captain on duty takes off his kepi. But his left hand does not quit the pocket of his trousers, and waves back the Uhlans, who either do not understand or are not inclined to do so, and push forward. A fresh demonstration with his kepi by our captain, followed by another more pronounced forward movement by the Uhlans. This time, however, they were met by a lowering of the bayonets on the part of the sentinels. This time the manifestation was understood. Our Uhlans turn their horses' heads and go back the way they came. The captain informs me that the troops have instructions to prevent at all risks the passage of the Prussians beyond their strict limits. I learn from him that the troops hold the line from the Rue Royale and the Faubourg St. Honoré, straight away to the gate or barrier of the Ternes. Thus the Prussians are strictly confined to the Champs Elysées."

So far as appears from the latest accounts received, no disturbance occurred.

THE NIGHT BEFORE.

A correspondent of the *Times* gives the subjoined account of his observations and experiences during a peregrination through Paris on Tuesday night:—

"With the near advent of the much-dreaded event Parisian indignation appeared to subside in an extraordinary manner. The National Guard alone were demonstrative. At close to midnight I set out on a tour through some of the quarters where one would expect to find popular demonstrations, if any there were. As early as four in the afternoon the statues round the Place de la Concorde had been put in mourning. Each of their countenances was veiled with thick crape, in order that those allegorical ladies who represent great towns of France should not look at *les Barbares* coming down the Champs Elysées, and that the barbarians should not triumph in their very faces. Even Strasbourg was put in black as to her head, though the tawdry and now faded flags and immortelles with which she has been bedizened for

months past still floated from her shoulders and hips and hung about her knees. During the evening people kept moving about the place to look at the veiled ladies; but nobody stayed very long, and when I got there at midnight there were only two or three small groups assembled in debate—nothing whatever approaching to a demonstration. Along the Rue de Rivoli up to the Rue Castiglione I hardly met a soul. It was the same in the Place Vendôme and the Rue de la Paix. I was not so much astonished at their emptiness as I was to find that from one end to the other of the Boulevard des Italiens there was not a single knot of street politicians. The promenaders had not disappeared; but the trottoirs were fast thinning, and very few customers remained in or about the cafés. At the beginning of the Boulevard Montmartre I came on the first of the open-air discussion forums. There were three separate little crowds across the roadway. In each of them *trahison* was the word which met the ear oftenest. Some of the orators were astoundingly learned in international law, and were explaining the difference between an armistice and a capitulation. Paris had not capitulated; not a bit of it. She had entered into an armistice, and, consequently, the Prussians had no right to enter except that which might give them. One Mobile declared that had he been at the head of affairs he would never have given up possession of the forts. He assured his audience that nothing would have been easier than for Trochu and Thiers and Favre to have secured an armistice without any such ridiculous concession. The diplomacy and bravoure of this Moblot excited the liveliest admiration. One of his hearers shouted 'Bravo! Les Mobilés ne se reculent jamais.' I came upon many other small assemblages as I proceeded along this boulevard, and on it I first noticed what struck me as very remarkable during the rest of my journey. Here and there was a man, half in the uniform of a National Guard and half in ordinary attire, carrying a chassepot under his arm or slung across his shoulder. These men seemed not to be on regular duty or going to any post. They were lounging about in a way not by any means calculated to impart confidence to a solitary passer-by. About the Porte St. Denis, the wine-shops were full; men in blouses and women without caps were moving about the pavement in a noisy and disorderly manner, and I observed more of the suspicious-looking armed guardians of the public peace. The way up to and beyond the Place du Château d'Eau was very dark, the oil-lamps were few and far between, though the place itself was lit with gas; and, as I wanted to get to the Place de la Bastille, I chartered a cab which happened to be passing, and ordered the coachman to drive me to the Column of July first, and next to La Villette. The great open space of the Place du Château d'Eau was deserted by all but men in uniform; but I should think there was a battalion of National guards about the fountain, and east and west of it chassepots were stacked in alarming numbers. None offered me any interruption, and it was with considerable confidence I directed the driver to pull up when, at one a.m., we reached the Place de la Bastille. The scene here was worth coming to see. Except in a dark corner of the circle, I saw no crowd of unarmed populace. Some half dozen men and women were lounging about to look at the immortelles with which the column is so profusely decorated; but everywhere about there were armed National Guards. On the summit of the column were some half-dozen persons who walked round and round waving huge torches, which threw a lurid glare on the Genius of Liberty, with his red flag, and at the same time illuminated the open space below sufficiently to enable one to see what was going on beneath the houses where the armed men swarmed. I entered into conversation with the few civilians who were there. One young woman told me her brother was serving as an officer somewhere in the French army, if he was not dead or a prisoner. She was in agonising suspense as to his fate, not having heard from him for several months. 'There never was in this world anything so abominable as the siege of Paris. Oh! what women and infants suffered! But France will yet avenge it!' This was her language. Poor thing, one could not much wonder at her, for she seemed to have suffered from starvation, and coughed like one in an advanced state of consumption. I had in my pocket some relief tickets given to me for distribution by members of the Mansion House Committee. I handed this delicate woman one of them. Fortunately it was for me I did so. She thanked me; but many minutes had not elapsed before she proved her gratitude for so small a favour in a manner that made me her debtor. The coachman was just turning out of the Place and into the Rue Faubourg St. Antoine when I saw an armed National Guard rush across the street and come towards the window. Having eyed me for a second, he asked the driver, 'Who is he?' 'I don't know,' was the response. 'Where has he directed you to drive him?' 'La Villette and La Chapelle.' 'Oh! Is he a Frenchman?' While this interrogation was being proceeded with, not fewer than fifty other National Guards had come close to the cab on the left-hand side. We were driving within a couple of yards of the pavement on the right. One of them had seized the horse by the head, and another stood close to the door with his chassepot half raised. In reply to 'Is he a Frenchman?' I replied myself, 'I am not.' The shout of exultation then raised brought National Guards running from all parts of the Place. The carriage was completely surrounded, and cries of 'He is a German!' 'He is a spy!' rose to a babel. I, however, made myself heard, saying, 'I am neither one nor the other, and if you will allow me to descend I shall prove it to you.' I did descend, and found myself in the midst of muskets. Running away was out of the question. I took two or three of the relief tickets and my passport from my pocket instantly, and, asking the men to read for themselves, explained what both were. One of my captors took the tickets, jumped up on the box, beside the driver, and began to read one by the light of our lamps. While he was doing this a comrade who held the hind wheel demanded of me 'Parlez-vous Anglais?' 'Oui, Monsieur,' I answered, 'I do speak English.' My fate appeared to be trembling in the balance, when the young woman to whom I had given the relief ticket exclaimed in loud accents, taking it from her bosom, 'Yes, he is English; and he is good to the poor of Paris. He has given me this.' 'How do you know he is English, though?' cried a National. 'The Germans speak English.' To save me she told an untruth: I hope she may be pardoned for it. 'I have known him for several years, and you cannot doubt that I am a Parisian.' This turned the tide in my favour. The man who had examined the tickets and they who had first stopped me declared themselves satisfied, and shook hands with me. Fresh arrivals demanded to be informed of the facts before I was suffered to depart; but my two newly-made friends carried the majority with them. They told me to mount, and bid the coachman drive off. As he was doing so they shouted 'Vive l'Angleterre!' The whole mob of Nationals followed suit. I put my head out of the window, uncovered, and cried 'Vive la France!' They then gave 'Vive la République,' to which I responded with an enthusiasm which I trust my position at the moment justified, and which evidently went to the heart of the good men and true who a moment before had, I believe, the most serious intention of offering me up as a sacrifice to the Genius of Liberty. Much to my consternation—for every moment I apprehended a new and less satisfactory trial—about a score of them insisted on my shaking hands with them. I assured them I had never felt so honoured in my life. I added that I never had any fear of the French people, who, in my estimation, always came to a right decision on such points, and knew how to discriminate between friends and traitors. This elicited cheers and waving of caps. I need scarcely say, however, that the moment I was clear of those gallant Republicans I countermanded my orders for La Villette, &c., and, paying my coachman, told him I preferred the promenade on foot. I have since heard that Mr. Furley and a friend had to run the gauntlet at very near the same spot soon after I passed. They were in an open carriage, but they offered to descend from it and proceed on foot if riding en voiture was hurtful to the Republican tastes of the National Guards."

WAR SKETCHES.

We continue to receive sketches of incidents connected with the late war, and glad we are to be able now to speak of it as a thing of the past. Among these sketches is

A SCENE DURING THE BATTLE OF BELFORT.

There was for a long time considerable mystery about the movement of General Bourbaki to the east of France, the object in view not being at first quite apparent; and there is still much mystery as to who planned that unlucky movement, which resulted in the total defeat of a numerous army, and a sort of second Sedan in the retreat across the Swiss frontier. To make the movements of the contending armies in this quarter quite clear, it may, perhaps, be as well to give a short résumé of events from the time General von Werder retired from Dijon on Dec. 27. This retreat was made in consequence of information that a large army was being collected at Lyons and Besançon to endeavour to raise the siege of Belfort. The line of the Germans was too extended for the number of troops. With the thermometer standing at something under zero of Fahrenheit, the staff of the army went in two days to Vesoul—the first day to Gray, the second to Vesoul—where the arrival of the French was awaited. The army made this distance in three days. These marches were each something over thirty-six kilometres, or some twenty-two English miles. Several strategic movements were made from Vesoul, with the intention of deceiving the enemy and gaining time for reinforcements to arrive. Twice the whole army left Vesoul, bag and baggage,

but returned the same evening, after a promenade of four or five hours. This lured the French General to approach within a couple of leagues of Vesoul, which, however—a strong position—he retreated from without venturing to attack. Finding this, on Jan. 9 General von Werder quitted Vesoul to take up a strong position before Belfort, at Breuvillers, attacking the enemy at Villerssexel, en route, inflicting very heavy loss, and taking more than a thousand prisoners. There were skirmishes of considerable importance with the outposts every day, in which the French were always worsted. On the morning of Jan. 15, Sunday—these battles are always fought on the Sunday—General Bourbaki, confident in his great preponderance in numbers, in his numerous artillery and mitrailleuses, attacked the well-chosen position of General von Werder. The centre of the German line was at Héricourt; the right wing at Prahier, under General Graf von Degenfeld; the left at Montbéliard, under General von Glümer; the south line extending from Montbéliard to Delle, under General von Debschütz. The French army consisted of four army corps, originally each of 30,000 men. General Cremer commanded one army corps, it is believed the 24th; the other army corps were the 25th, the 20th, the 18th, and the 15th, whose commanders are not known with certainty; the last three a part of the divided Loire Army. The 24th and 25th were new army corps formed in Lyons, the base of the French operations. One of these corps did not arrive till the Monday evening, the second day of the battle, which brought the force of the French up to about 125,000 to 130,000 men. The whole German army under General von Werder

was certainly under 40,000 men. Of these something over 4000 consisted of cavalry. So that in round numbers the French were nearly four to one. The artillery of the French was superior in number to that of the Germans, and they had, besides, at least three batteries—each consisting of six—mitrailleuses. The attack commenced on the Sunday morning, at eight o'clock, with artillery, which kept up a continual fire until dusk. The small-arms, which did not come into play until a couple of hours later, never ceased the whole day, and at four o'clock the roar of all arms was a fearful thing to hear. The Germans never receded a single step from the position they had taken, and when night put an end to the conflict, they bivouacked along the whole line, on the same spot whereon they were attacked in the morning. The next morning, Monday, General Bourbaki, having received the reinforcement of another army corps, repeated his attack, directing it principally against the right wing, throwing immense masses of troops against it, endeavouring vainly to break the German line. This line once broken, the considerable siege material before Belfort would have been the spoils of the French, the investment of Belfort would have been raised, fresh troops would have reinforced the garrison, and a further supply of victuals have been thrown into the town. The army of General von Werder, if not beaten, must have retired; and the possibility of at once crossing the Rhine and carrying the war into German territory, at Baden, would have remained as the fruits of the success of the French. On the second day, along the whole line, these inflexible German troops remained unshaken



THE WAR: REDOUBT AT LABOE, NEAR KIEL.

in their position. The loss inflicted by their well-directed fire was immense on the attacking French, and the loss of the Germans was much greater than on the first day, when it was only about 200 to 300. The second day the loss was nearly 1000, principally at Chanabier and Champey. The loss of the French, it is presumed, was, in killed, wounded, and taken prisoners, not less than 10,000 men. Again, the second day, the German army bivouacked on the ground they had taken up on the morning. The third day, Tuesday, the French attack was much fainter, and in the afternoon they commenced a retreat of their whole line, and were pursued by the artillery of the Germans. On the fourth day, Wednesday, General Debschütz attacked the retreating French, inflicting great loss, and pursuing them as far as Blamont. From here he was recalled to resume the siege of Belfort. On the Thursday and Friday the French continued their retreat towards Besançon, comparatively unmolested by the German army, except by the artillery, who, though in need of rest, continued their march.

After a brief rest, the Germans again moved forward, and so manoeuvred as to hem the French in upon the Swiss frontier, and compel them to surrender to the neutral forces rather than become prisoners of war to their conquerors.

BURYING THE DEAD ON MONT AVRON.

After the last effort made by the Paris garrison to seize upon Mont Avron, and so, if possible, force a passage through the German lines, had been made, and had failed, the attacking troops had to retreat, leaving the ground strewn with their dead and dying. The task of burying these unfortunates devolved chiefly upon the several ambulance corps, and was performed under the superintendence of the Germans. The performance of this melancholy duty is depicted in our Engraving on page 133.

A REDOUBT NEAR KIEL.

In the early days of the war, when the French fleet was expected to play a prominent part in the contest, every vulnerable part of the Prussian seaboard in the North Sea and the Baltic was put into a state of defence. Forts were erected, armed, and

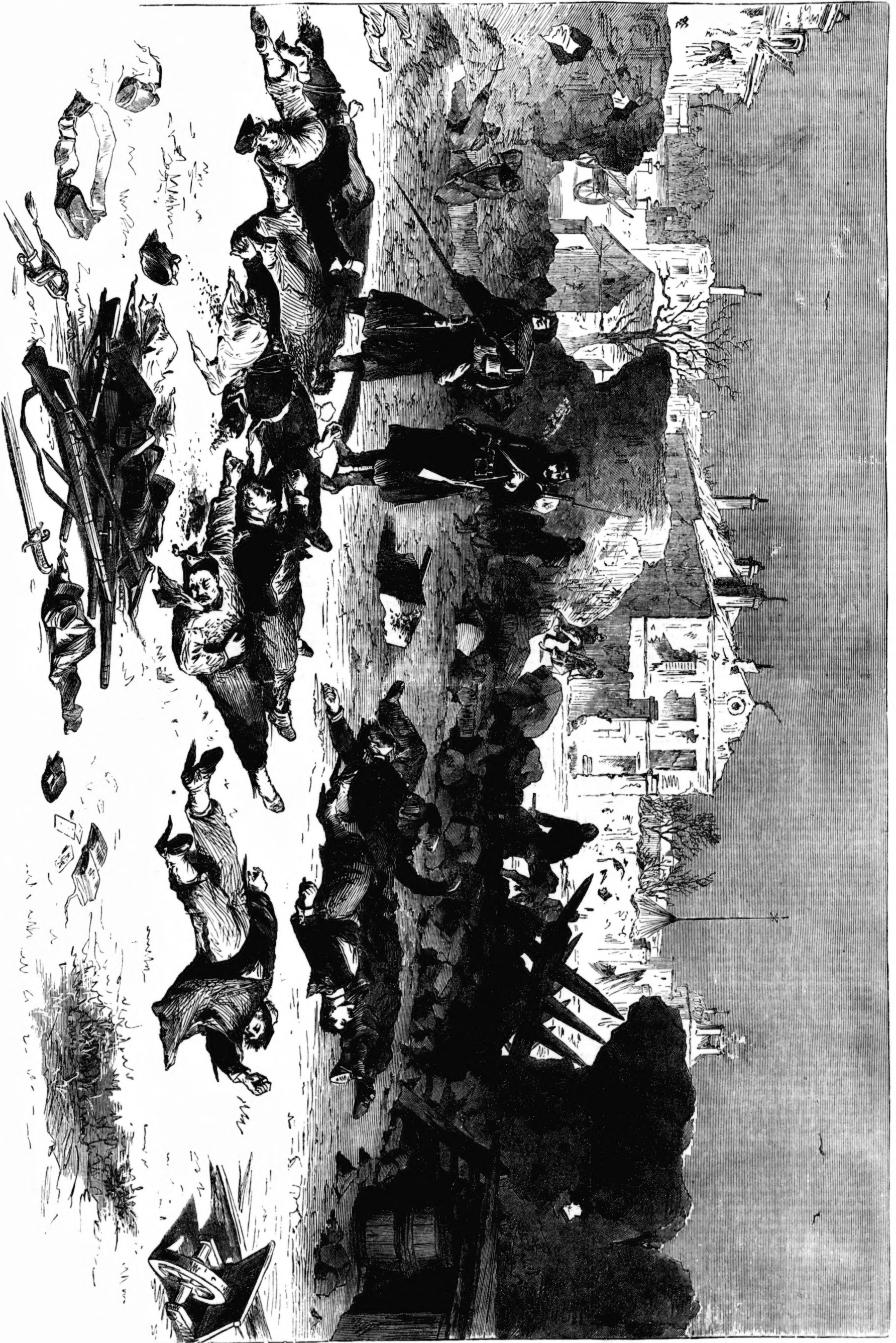
manned with that promptitude and energy which have characterised the Germans throughout the whole war. These forts were never called upon for any real action, the utmost the French fleet ever did having been to make a sort of promenade through the northern seas and take a look at the preparations for its reception, as some of the ships belonging to it are doing in the above Engraving.

RECRUITING IN 1870.

THE report of the Inspector-General of Recruiting, issued on Monday morning, says that the number of enlistments for short service since the passing of the Army Enlistment Act, 1870, is 2546, which, allowing for six years' service and the progressive increase of proportion of short to long enlistments during the last four months, will, upon the annual number of men required for the maintaining of the present establishment, give about 20,000 eventually in the reserve force from short enlistments:—"It does not as yet appear that the men selecting the short period of service are from a different class to those who enlist for long service, but are of the same position. Many have merely taken to it with apparent indifference as to the term; but the majority of recruits look forward to the hopes of eventually obtaining a pension, and enlist with that prospect before them. In Scotland a few more men have shown some desire for short service. The Act has given greater scope to enlistment for general service; but it is found in practice that many recruits have a desire to join regiments in which they have relatives or comrades, or to which they attach some private fancy. This desire is not thwarted should those regiments be then open for the admission of recruits. When that is not the case, or that the recruit has no particular tie or association for one regiment, he is, with advantage to the service, put into such regiment as may then require most men. The power given by the Act of transferring men from one regiment to another, within fifteen months of enlistment, has been very rarely exercised, and usually with the consent of the transferred. There is no reason to suppose that what has therefore been complained of,

that recruits cannot choose their own regiments, will, when the system is better known, injuriously affect recruiting. The words 'general service' have hitherto been erroneously connected with a forced service abroad, or under different conditions from those expected by men who voluntarily enter the Army. The actual number of men enlisted in the year may be considered very great as compared with any former years; the total of men who have joined the ranks since June 1 being 24,032." It is stated that the number of boys taken from the different industrial schools in the neighbourhood of London continues steadily to increase. These boys are found to be very well grounded in their instruction in music, and are very soon good performers in regimental bands. The report of the boys is very favourable from all commanding officers. The recruits taken during the year 1870 are mostly of a good physique; those for the cavalry are very highly reported of by commanding officers, many of them seeming, from their respectable appearance, to be of a superior class. The requirements for cavalry have not been reduced. The report contradicts the statements of "anonymous writers, and some public speakers who might have obtained better information," that recruits are enlisted in a state of intoxication.

The Inspector-General states that recruiting for the Regular Army is very seriously affected by the enrolling for the Militia, and that the latter presents more advantages. The report goes on to state that most of the officers commanding Militia regiments have very liberal views, and allow all the young men fitted for service to join the Regular Army; and it has usually been found that in the Militia regiments which give this indulgence to the men the strength of the regiment is not materially impaired. But releases for men from Militia service to join the Regular Army are still arbitrarily refused in many cases. This leads to fraudulent enlistments, and entails upon the soldier so enlisted a very severe penalty of loss of service for some time and his good-conduct pay for some years. It is irrational to suppose that a young man enrolled and drilled in a Militia regiment, who has taken a desire to serve in the Army from having been brought into association with old soldiers while with the Militia, and made aware of the advantages of a military



THE SIEGE OF PARIS: BURYING FRENCH DEAD ON MONT AVRON.

life, will return to the plough or shuttle contentedly. He applies for permission to enlist, is refused by the officer commanding the Militia regiment, and enlists fraudulently, denying his belonging to the Militia, and then is punished severely. This would be obviated if every militiaman were permitted to enlist after he had completed his first training, without any further authority, and on merely declaring that he was then in the Militia, that his absence from the Militia regiment might be recorded.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 392.

AN INTELLECTUAL STRUGGLE.

On the paper for Friday night in last week there stood this notice of motion:—"On going into Supply—Mr. Disraeli: To call attention to the provisions of the Treaty of Paris (1856) as to the Black Sea, with reference to the statement on this subject lately made by the Prime Minister." This notice lay lurking between two others of quite insignificant importance, and evidently did not attract the attention of the public, for on that night no crowd beset the entrance to the lobby and the strangers' galleries filled but slowly. Ah! if the public had but known what was about to occur, what a mob there would have been at the doors! Fortunately, indeed, were those strangers who happened to be present, for we had in the House that evening the grandest wrestling-match between our two most famous intellectual athletes—to wit, Mr. Disraeli and Mr. Gladstone—that has occurred for many years. Indeed, we know not that we ever heard anything like it before. Everything seemed to conspire to make the exhibition interesting.

THE SUBJECT.

First, the subject-matter in dispute was important. The charge which the leader of the Opposition had to bring against the Prime Minister was that not only had he been imprudent, but had asserted that to be a fact which was no fact, and that he had done this to justify a pre-arranged questionable policy to be urged by our Foreign Secretary for adoption by the Conference now assembled to discuss and settle the question of the neutralisation of the Black Sea. But we must give the statement of the Prime Minister, which Mr. Disraeli impugned, because it was round this that the battle between these two raged. In his speech on the Address, on the first night of the Session, Mr. Gladstone, in answer to Mr. Disraeli, said, "As for the vital importance of the neutralisation of the Black Sea, that was, as far as I know, never the view of the British Government. In the year 1856, I declared my confident conviction that it was impossible to maintain the neutralisation of the Black Sea. I have been told, since the death of Lord Clarendon, that he never attached much value to it. I have been told that Lord Palmerston looked upon it as an arrangement that could not be permanent." This was the subject in dispute. Mr. Disraeli had to prove that the statements made by the Prime Minister were untrue, that the policy indicated is wrong, and that the conduct of her Majesty's Government is censurable.

EVERYTHING FAVOURABLE FOR THE COMBAT.

Secondly, the time was propitious; it was early evening, before dinner; the combatants were therefore fresh, the audience calm and not excited, as they are apt to be when, having dined and wine, they come down late at night, with flushed faces and sparkling eyes, to hear the wind-up of a long political struggle and to cheer on their respective leaders. Moreover, this was not a fight for place. There was to be no division, no mustering of forces, and, consequently, there were no exciting hopes and fears. In short, everything was favourable.

MR. DISRAELI.

There were but few notices on the paper that night, and of those few only one stood before Mr. Disraeli's—to wit, a notice given by Sir James Elphinstone to call the attention of the House to the expediency of cutting through "Adam's Bridge, and thereby obviating the necessity of circumnavigating Bengal." An important matter this, no doubt. If this wretched "bridge" could be cut through, 363 miles of distance would be saved. But our readers can fancy that Sir James—albeit he has a loud, sonorous voice of the blustering Boreas sort, trained and strengthened long ago when he was a captain of one of the famous East India men in the old company's days—could get little attention that night. This work of his, though, had to be done, and he did it; and, having done it, and Mr. Grant-Duff, our Under-Secretary, having replied, Mr. Disraeli rose, and, as he did so, the humming and buzzing which pervaded the House whilst these India people were discussing the matter of Adam's Bridge, hushed and subsided into a dead calm. Usually when Mr. Disraeli enters the lists to have a set-to with his great antagonist he is greeted with a salvo of cheers. But on this occasion there came from his party no encouraging applause. The Conservative leader stepped forward and began to open his case with as quiet an audience before him as a parson has when he opens his sermon-book, or a Chancery barrister when he begins to address "My Lord." Two things, though, we soon came to learn—viz., that the Conservative champion was in excellent trim and meant mischief. When he spoke on the first night of the Session he did not appear to be in good feather. He was dull and spiritless, and at times his words seemed to come slowly to him. But that Friday night, before he had been speaking five minutes, all could see that he was quite himself again; and, further, we soon learned that the speech which he was to deliver was not to be a dashing speech, sparkling with witty sallies, bristling with caustic sarcasms, but an elaborate indictment of the Prime Minister, carefully prepared and quietly delivered. And it was so. Some of our readers may imagine that this is not much in Disraeli's line; but if they do they are mistaken. No lawyer in the Queen's dominions can do this sort of thing better than he can. That indictment was, both in conception and delivery, a work of art. How clear was the preliminary statement! How artful, ingenious, and, to the inexperienced, seemingly impregnable was the logic! Of course, here and there Disraeli gave a touch of his other qualities, stepping aside to fling a sarcasm at his opponent, and to evoke a laugh and a cheer from his followers; but generally his matter was grave and his deportment serious, and no doubt, for the time, he produced a great effect. An intelligent Liberal in the gallery said, when he came down, "As Disraeli went on winding his coil round and round Gladstone, I got quite frightened, and wondered how on earth he would get out of it." And a member told us that for a time he thought that Dizzy was getting Gladstone into a nasty fix. The Conservatives generally, as they saw, or thought they saw, their clever chief slowly winding round his opponent inextricable logical coils, were radiant with delight. There were some, though, who looked puzzled, perplexed, bewildered; they lacked the patience or sagacity to follow their leader, and "wondered whatever he was driving at."

THE PRIME MINISTER.

Before the salute of cheering which the Conservatives gave their chief when he sat down had died away, the Prime Minister was on his legs, "ready, aye ready," nothing dismayed. Indeed, all the while his opponent was speaking, one could see that the indictment, which to strangers appeared so formidable, had no terrors for the Prime Minister. Nothing like consternation, or even depression, sat upon his countenance; but, on the contrary, confidence and eager impatience. He saw what few could see, that all that imposing array of facts, wadded together so closely with specious logic as to appear to be impregnable, was all mere sophistry. A very keen eye has our Premier for fallacious reasoning. He has himself weaved a web or two of sophistry in his time, especially in ecclesiastical matters,—indeed, bound himself up in his younger days so tightly that he could only liberate himself by cutting the web. He then, as Emerson says, "knows the ropes." This speech of the Premier was one of the best that he ever delivered. Those who have done us the honour to read these articles know that Mr. Gladstone has two styles of speaking. One diffusive, wordy, expatiatory—i.e., roving at large

on a wide space, like a river that overflows its banks. This is his style when he is not earnest, and perhaps not quite confident that he is right. But when he is confident, and thoroughly in earnest, and especially when he is excited, indignant, and slightly angry, his style is, for him, compact, vigorous, and at times epigrammatic. His speech on this occasion was in his very best style. The Conservative leader had, to recur to our figure of wrestling, grappled his opponent, and Mr. Gladstone must either by skill dexterously get clear of the grasp of his foe, or by main force fling him. The Prime Minister means to do both, as we can see, as he stands there at the table, every feature of him from the crown to sole indicating conscious power and dauntless resolution. And he did both. The web of sophistry, which looked so strongly woven and knotted, was skilfully unravelled, and the sophist indignantly, not without a touch of angry scorn, repulsed. But not entirely without scathe to the Prime Minister. Though the main charge was disproved, he had, in quoting Lords Palmerston and Clarendon, been imprudent and mistaken. But, though Gladstone's enemies seemed to cry out, "A hit, a very palpable hit," it is only a scratch, which will be soon forgotten. Thus, then, ended this famous set-to, and this is our judgment upon it: on the whole, it was the best thing of the kind we have had for many years in the House of Commons.

A CANARD'S NECK WRUNG.

The next business on the paper was the Indian Budget to be presented to the House by our Under-Secretary for India, Mr. Grant-Duff; and as soon as Gladstone sat down, the great majority of the members prepared to take wing. With an Indian Budget to repel and dinner to attract, it was not likely that many would stop. But they don't move off! What holds them? Oh! Sir Henry Hoare is upon his legs. What then? Is the member for Chelsea so attractive a speaker that his appearance thus arrests hungry members on their way to dinner? Certainly not. Sir Henry's wild, incoherent, illogical talk never attracted mortals who had ever heard him speak. The members stop to hear what Gladstone will answer to a strange question which Sir Henry has to put—a question which probably not another man in the House would have put; at least, one hopes so. The German war being over, her Majesty the Queen, the Prince of Wales, and the Duke of Cambridge sent, through Captain Hozier, congratulations to the Crown Prince—who, as we must remember, is the Queen's son-in-law—upon his having passed safely through all the perils of war. Surely a very natural and human thing to do. But, unfortunately, the thing got wind, and was transmitted to England by the correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*—"Adolescents Leo, Esq.," as Mr. Mathew Arnold has dubbed that gentleman; and of course the story got, in its passage from the palace at Versailles to the *Telegraph*, in Fleet-street, very much changed. At Versailles, it was simply a family congratulation. "Give our love to the Emperor, and to Fritz, and to all the family; and say how glad we are that they have all escaped, and are well." When it arrived at Fleet-street it was a congratulation that the Emperor and his son had beaten the French. Only think of that! One can fancy how this paragraph in the letter of "Adolescents" vexed the righteous soul of Sir Henry Hoare, who, we all know, is and was, before a shot was fired, madly anti-German. "Ha! they have congratulated these German Princes on their victories, have they? And this is what they call neutrality! I'll bring the matter before the House!" Gladstone's answer was very simple, and at his touch the bubble burst. Sir Henry had, in fact, caught a fine-fledged canard. Gladstone's description of the manner in which this story, like many other stories, was "cooked" for the English public was so good and amusing that we will reproduce it.

Said Mr. G.:—"When, Sir, eight or ten people are sitting round a country fireside, and have nothing else to do, one sets the ball rolling by telling an anecdote to the friend next him, and it goes round the circle from one to another until it returns to the one who began the game, when the tale has invariably lost all resemblance to the original story; and I believe that is an illustration of what has happened in this case. That Captain Hozier is a gentleman of discretion and ability I am confident. He was intrusted with the duty of conveying certain messages to persons in exalted situations; they, gratified by the kindly expressions of feeling they had received, communicated them to persons of their own rank, and they to others nearly as exalted; thus they filtered down to aides-de-camp, and became the subject of conversation in the army; and from that source they were picked up by special correspondents, anxious to cater for the English public, and well versed in that sort of innocent cookery which gives additional interest to statements of this kind."

THE INDIAN BUDGET.

This little job having been neatly polished off, away went most of the members, and in five minutes the strangers in the gallery were looking down upon a very different scene and listening to a very different performance. Instead of Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Grant-Duff was at the table, leaning thereon, and, in his free-and-easy style, opening his Indian Budget to about fifty members. Mr. Grant-Duff is a very able, accomplished man, and of the narrative style is a master. Nothing could be more clear, perspicuous, or, indeed, interesting to those who care about Indian affairs than the story which he told that night. No representative of the Indian Office in our time has performed this annual task so well. But, no matter; an Indian Budget never fails to disperse the House. Until this year the Indian Budget was always brought on at the end of the Session when half the members had left town. Of this the old Indians reasonably complained. "How can you expect," they said, "to get an audience at this time of the year?" "Well," said the Under-Secretary, last autumn, "next year we will have it early;" and he performed his promise. But, alas! with no improvement in the attendance. More than once during the evening the House might have been counted out.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House sat only for a short time, and advanced two or three bills a stage, including the passing of the Princess Louise's Annuity Bill.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE BLACK SEA QUESTION.

Mr. DISRAELI called attention to the provisions of the Treaty of Paris (1856) with reference to the statement on this subject lately made by the Prime Minister that Lords Clarendon and Palmerston did not consider the neutralisation of the Black Sea a vital point of the treaty, and for nearly an hour engaged the attention of the House with canonic criticisms upon the statements of Mr. Gladstone, and the action of the Government upon the Black Sea question. He reminded the Prime Minister that in 1856 he was not a member of the Government, or even a leader of Opposition. He was only one of a minute coterie of men to whose lukewarmness and hesitation the country attributed the war, and was himself the most unpopular man in the country, because, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, he had in a spirit of ironical finance proposed a vote to take the Guards to Malta and back. Mr. Disraeli expressed more than a doubt as to whether Lord Clarendon and Lord Palmerston entertained the opinions attributed to them by the right hon. gentleman, and, referring to the story that the latter noble Lord had expressed these sentiments in conversation with an eminent diplomatist, reminded the House that Lord Palmerston was very fond of banter, and while suggesting that, when diplomatists wearied him with their grave assiduity, or endeavoured to pump him with their practised adroitness, he "unheeded his glittering foil, and soon disarmed or disabled them," recorded, amid general cheering, his solemn conviction that the noble Lord had never for a moment wavered in his determination to maintain the neutrality of the Black Sea.

Mr. GLADSTONE'S substantial answer to Mr. Disraeli was, that that right hon. gentleman had "studiously" confounded matters which were distinct; and, while citing the authority of Sir A. Buchanan and Mr. Odo Russell upon the question of the neutrality of the Black Sea, had quoted words which in reality referred not to that subject, but to the despatch of Prince Gortschakoff and the

attempt of Russia to set aside treaty engagements at her own will and pleasure. For himself, he had never denied that the neutralisation of the Black Sea was, in his opinion, as well as in that of the nation and the Government, a matter of great importance; but he maintained that the main object of the war, and of the stipulations of the peace, was to put an end to the interference of Russia in the affairs of the Turkish empire. He admitted that he had been misinformed as to the opinions of Lord Clarendon, but adhered to his statement that Lord Palmerston never regarded the neutralisation of the Black Sea as a permanent measure.

INDIAN FINANCE.

The House afterwards went into Committee upon the Indian accounts. The Budget, as opened by Mr. G. DUFF, was founded upon the accounts of the year ending March 31, 1870, and a telegraphic summary of those for the year just ended; and its general result was that while in the first-named year there was a deficiency of £20,000, in the year just closing there would be a surplus of one million, the income amounting to £51,000,000, against an expenditure of £50,000,000. Mr. Duff held out a hope that, unless some unexpected event should occur, it would be possible during the present year to reduce the income tax, and entered into explanations as to the expenditure upon public works, the scheme for the decentralisation of finance, and other matters of interest connected with our Indian Empire. The House was much fuller than is usually the case when the financial affairs of India are brought under its notice, and the discussion which followed the statement of the Under-Secretary was far more lively than those which we have been accustomed to witness in past years, at the end of July or the beginning of August.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The two topics which engaged the attention of the House were vagrancy and the administration of the Duchy of Lancaster. Upon the first of these subjects Lord Kimberley induced the House to read the second time a bill for the regulation of the admission and discharge of paupers from work-houses, and the treatment of vagrants; and upon the second, Lord Dufferin entered into explanations as to the expense of administering the estates of the duchy, and his own position as a Minister.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

Mr. GLADSTONE, in reply to Mr. O'way, declined to state at that moment the instructions which had been given to Mr. Odo Russell, but assured the House that the Government had not forgotten their declaration that they would be watchful in their endeavours, in concert with other neutral Powers, to moderate the terms of peace; and, amid general expressions of satisfaction, stated that Major-General Walker and Captain Hozier had, in accordance with our regular practice, been instructed not to accompany the German army in its triumphal entry into Paris.

THE SCOTCH EDUCATION BILL.

Mr. DISRAELI, having proposed that the order of the day for the second reading of this bill should be postponed till the Marquis of Hartington had moved for his Committee upon secret combinations in Westmeath, the Prime Minister felt bound to keep faith with the members for North Briton, so far as to promise that the Scotch measure should occupy the time up to nine o'clock; and the debate was opened by Mr. GORDON, the late Lord-Advocate, who did not oppose the second reading of the bill, but subjected many of its provisions to very severe criticisms, which occupied a good part of the short time allotted to the discussion. Dr. L. PLAYFAIR generally supported the measure, but pressed the Lord-Advocate for further explanations as to what is to be the real nature of the Scotch Education Department, and urged the necessity of its being a real body, capable of informing and assisting the Vice-President of the Council in the management of education in Scotland. In the discussion which followed, the proposal to abolish the parish schools attracted a great deal of attention, and many hon. members reserved the expression of their opinion upon that subject until they had more time to consider it. Mr. W. E. FORSTER generally defended the provisions of the bill, especially as to the arrangement of a Committee of Council for Scotland. Two or three gentlemen expressed their regret that the discussion had been limited to so short a time, and notice was freely given that, upon going into Committee, there would be a revival of the debate. At nine o'clock the Lord-Advocate was addressing the House, but he was promptly called to "time," and immediately afterwards the bill was allowed to pass its stage, and the Committee was fixed for three weeks hence.

SECRET COMBINATIONS IN IRELAND.

The Marquis of HARTINGTON rose, in a full House, to move the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the state of Westmeath and certain adjoining parts of Meath and King's County, "the nature, extent, and effect of a certain unlawful combination and confederacy existing therein, and the best means of suppressing the same." The noble Lord founded his request for this Committee upon the prevalence in the counties specified of the Ribbon conspiracy, which had recently led to many murders and attempts to murder, and had produced a state of absolute terrorism that affected even the ordinary transactions of daily life. To this intolerable state of things the Government were determined to put an end; and, while acknowledging their responsibility to find a remedy, sought, by means of this Committee, to inform both themselves and the House upon the subject. Abandoning their desire to make this a secret Committee, the Government were prepared to leave that matter in the hands of the members selected, and to content themselves with supporting any demand they might make to conduct any part of their inquiry in secret.

Mr. DISRAELI commenced in a tone of banter, ridiculing the failure of the remedial measures of the Government, and their request to the House to grant them a Committee to tell them how to govern a county of Ireland; but he was earnest enough in his declaration that it was their duty to produce a measure, and not merely seek for inquiry. Adverting to the Irish legislation of the last two years, he asserted, amid shouts of delight from the Opposition, that upon the invitation of Ministers the House had legislated confiscation, consecrated sacrilege, and condoned high treason; had destroyed churches, shaken property to its centre, and emptied gaols; and concluded by characterising this "ridiculous proposal" as a Parliamentary veil to save the self-love of the Prime Minister.

Mr. SHERLOCK'S motion of the previous question was supported by Mr. BROWNE, the member for Mayo, in a maiden speech; while Mr. GREGORY dwelt upon the disgraceful state of things in Westmeath, and supported the proposal of the Government as a necessary preliminary to legislation.

Mr. HARDY commiserated the position of the Marquis of Hartington in being at the outset of his career as Irish Secretary compelled to take out of the fire the chestnuts which were too hot for Mr. Fortescue to touch; and declared that the Government which, under circumstances such as those which existed in Westmeath and King's County, contented itself with moving for a Committee was a Government that made itself contemptible.

Mr. C. FORTESCUE defended the proposal of the Government; and, after one or two other members had spoken, the debate was, on the motion of Colonel W. Patten, and with the assent of Mr. Gladstone, adjourned.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Royal assent was given by Commission to Princess Louise's Annuity Bill and the Juries Act (1870) Amendment Bill.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

INCIDENCE OF TAXATION.

The greater portion of the sitting was devoted to the consideration of a motion by Sir M. LOPES on local taxation, and the duty and expediency of Government inquiring forthwith into the incidence of imperial as well as local burdens, and taking such steps as would ensure that every description of property should equitably contribute to all national burdens. The motion received support in speeches of members on each side of the House; and even the President of the Poor-Law Board did not dispute the proposition it contained, but contended that the proposed resolution was premature, and moved the previous question. Mr. GLADSTONE having explained the position of the Government towards the resolution of Sir M. Lopes, and promised the introduction of their measure with reference to local taxation promised in the Queen's Speech, the House divided, when the previous question was carried by a majority of 46—211 to 195—and the motion, therefore, was not put from the chair.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. GLADSTONE'S proposal to nominate the Select Committee on the business of the House produced a good deal of controversy, and was only assented to upon the understanding that some members shall be added on a future occasion.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House read the Burials Bill the second time, upon a division, by 211 to 149, or a majority of 62. The object of the measure, of which Mr. O. Morgan has the conduct, is to allow Dissenters to perform funeral rites in parish churchyards in accordance with their own religious views.

Mr. G. GREGORY's bill to abolish the registration of deeds, wills, &c., in Middlesex, was also read the second time, on the understanding that it would not be pressed further, after an assurance given by the Attorney-General that a bill was in preparation for facilitating the transfer of land and establishing a system of registration for the whole kingdom.

THURSDAY, MARCH 2.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The only business of any public importance transacted was that of passing through Committee the Pauper Inmates Discharge and Regulation Bill. From a reply of the Duke of ARGYLL to a question of Lord Lyvelin, it was elicited that the original proposition for a joint Committee of both Houses on Indian finances was abandoned, and that a Committee of members of the House of Commons exclusively would be appointed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Major Arbutnot and Mr. Buckley took the oath and their seats—the former for Hereford, the latter for Stalybridge.

SECRET COMBINATIONS IN IRELAND.

The adjourned debate on the motion of the Marquis of Hartington was resumed by

Colonel WILSON-PATTEN, who said that he had hoped up to the present moment that her Majesty's Government might have been induced to reconsider their course in this matter; but, under the circumstances, the Government were perfectly justified in asking for assistance from the House, and all parties in the House were willing to give them every power which was required.

Mr. GLADSTONE reminded the House that the Chief Secretary for Ireland had announced two alterations in the proposal which he had made. In the first place, the motion had been framed to ask the House, through its Committee, to devise remedies for the state of things which existed in these counties; but it had also been stated that the Government would take upon itself all responsibility of what might be done. As regarded the other alterations, with respect to the Committee being secret, the intention of the Government was to obtain, as far as possible, evidence as to the whole facts of the case; and, although the testimony of their own officers might be published, there were other persons who would not consent to give evidence without protection from its being published.

Mr. CHAPLIN contended that the Government had made out no case for a secret Committee.

Sir R. PEEL said, from his personal experience of Ireland, it was his conviction that neither the measures of the last two Sessions nor such a proposal as was now made would ever remedy the evils of the sister country.

Mr. O'REILLY knew Westmeath well, and he must frankly admit that that county for the last thirty years had been afflicted with the curse of Ribbonism. Nevertheless, he should oppose the motion of the Government, as being utterly inadequate to meet the evils complained of.

A lengthened discussion ensued, when Mr. Maguire moved the adjournment of the debate, which Mr. Gladstone protested against, and which, on a division, was rejected by a majority of 372. The House then divided on the main question, "That a Select Committee be appointed," &c., which was carried by a majority of 81.

MR. ARTHUR KAVANAGH, M.P., writes to one of the Dublin papers making strong representations against the proposal to establish union rating in Ireland. He states that the poor rates have increased in England under the Union Chargeability Act, and contends that the same result would follow in Ireland from the assimilation of the law. He suggests a meeting of every Irish board of guardians to take the question into consideration.

THE RAILWAY COMPANIES BILL (which bears the names of Sir H. Selwin-Ibbetson, Mr. Hinde Palmer, and Mr. Rowland Winn) proposes to enact that the maximum liability of railway companies to compensate injured passengers shall not exceed £1000; but it is proposed to establish a system of insurance by which the claims may be increased, at the rate of a halfpenny per £100. Among other matters it is proposed to enact that all railways shall be worked on the absolute block and continuous brake systems.

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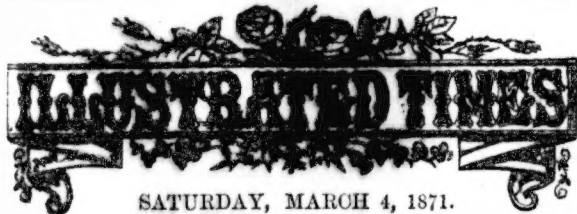
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THE SCHOOL BOARDS AND THE BIBLE.

There is something which is, at first sight, grotesque in finding Professor Huxley and Dr. Angus on the same side of such a question as the reading of the Bible, with a certain amount of criticism from the teachers, in rate-supported schools. But the grotesqueness is only superficial, after all. If David Hume were now living, and on the London School Board (as he most likely would be), he would be found taking exactly the course taken by Professor Huxley, and for similar reasons.

Without going at length into the general question, we may make a few obvious remarks. The whole question of religious instruction might, conceivably, be settled as it is settled in Holland, where the school instruction is "secular" and "moral" only; all "religious" instruction being given by the priests, or the clergy, or the rabbis, or the Catholics, the Lutherans, or the Jews, respectively, at times agreed upon among the teachers and the parents. This is the course which commends itself to Mr. Chatfield Clarke and the Rev. J. A. Picton. Again, it is conceivable that a selection of passages from the Bible might be agreed upon for use in the schools by Jews, Catholics, and Protestants; though this is not much more than conceivable. Lastly, there is the course advocated by Dr. Angus and Professor Huxley, in which, though the function of the teacher as a commentator is nominally limited, it is practically without bound. Under the heads of "historical" and "grammatical" explanation any conceivable amount of dogmatic teaching may be introduced.

A hundred things may be said by way of making light of this matter; but let us think twice about it. For one point, it is possible that a "rationalising" teacher might get possession of the desk; and how would Dr. Angus like his grammatical and historical explanations to the children? That, however, is only possible—it is not likely; so we may turn to another point. It is probable that since the time Christianity became an "established" religion, and had the sword at its back, more bloodshed of one kind or another has been justified by certain "grammatical" and "historical" views of passages in the Bible than in any other way. Think of the manner in which Olaf and the rest went about making "Christians" (i.e., cutting off peoples' heads by thousands if they would not be baptised); think of Folquet, and De Montfort, and the Albigeois; think of the Crusades; think of the Inquisition; think of St. Bartholomew. Think, again, of witch-hunting, and the unspeakably horrible cruelties of the Puritans in New England till Roger Williams arose—a story over which the heart sickens. The number of "witches" who were tortured to death in Europe alone amounts to many scores of thousands—we are afraid to put down the figure which occurs to us. But during the reign of the Long Parliament alone it is computed that at least three

thousand innocent women were put to death in England proper as witches. We will rest the case on this one topic. It was when the Puritans were in the ascendant that these atrocities were at their worst, and in Scotland and New England that they reached their atrocious climax. Godly divines, men whose writings are yet cherished in millions of homes, urged them on with a holy fury, and in what name? In the name of the Bible. "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live"—that was their avowed warrant. And all that they found in the Hebrew records concerning the Evil One was collaterally their encouragement. Now, a later "grammatical" criticism is said to show that the word "witch" is a mistranslation; and a still later "historical" criticism is said to show that what is found in the records about the Evil One was an importation from Persia, and no portion of the true Hebrew teaching.

It will be said that we shall never again burn witches. Very likely not; but does it follow that we shall never again do something as displeasing to the Divine Ruler of the world and as abhorrent to Christianity, and that mistaken "grammatical" and "historical" explanations of the Bible will not be employed to justify that something? We do not pretend to answer the question; we simply put it, in presence of the fact that it is proposed to let these teachers give their own "explanations" of the Bible, and that the impressions the young receive in childhood form, in the immense majority of cases, the staple of their subsequent convictions.

THE QUEEN'S PEACE.

The introduction of a correction of a mechanical error in our article of last week on Literary Libel gives us an opportunity of completing our comments. The error lay in the omission of the word "not" early in the first paragraph. Of course, our intention was to say it was to be hoped Mr. Sala would not press the damages; and most readers would at once see the true meaning of the sentence; but, as "magnanimity" might by a stretch be read as moral courage, and so an equivocation might arise, it is our duty to make the correction. We believe we may authoritatively contradict the rumour (which we never for a moment credited) that the plaintiff in the cause intends to sue the defendant himself. Nobody who had read a hundred pages of the writings of the genial author of "The Seven Dangerous Sons of Captain Baddington" (as *Punch* once called him, through, we believe, the pen of Mr. Shirley Brooks) could suppose him capable of anything so vindictive.

But now to complete what it is desirable to say upon the general question; and we hope our contemporaries will "copy," for the fact is, apparently, not well known. Unless the law is altered, a libel, true or false, is an indictable offence, as tending to provoke a breach of the peace. Let journalists and publishers, then, take care, for in the face of that "Americanising" colour in our periodical press to which this Journal has repeatedly called attention, it is not at all impossible that some public-spirited Attorney-General may look the question up and enforce the law. In a civil suit, if the things alleged by a libeller stand proved upon a "justification" pleaded, the law calls it a case of *damnum absque injuria*, and refuses compensation. But the truth or falseness of the libel matters nothing in the case of an indictment. Indeed, the popular voice says, "The greater the truth the greater the libel;" meaning, rightly or wrongly, that the truer the things alleged the greater the provocation to the libelled person to break the peace by avenging himself, the law giving him in that case no remedy.

So, again, we say, let publishers and journalists beware.

THE LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.—At the meeting of the London School Board on Wednesday the adjourned debate on Mr. W. H. Smith's motion, on the reading of the Bible, was resumed. The Rev. B. Waugh moved as an amendment, that in schools under the management of the board the Bible should be read without religious note or comment, with such exceptions as the Act provides. This was seconded by Mr. Lucraft, and lost. Among the other speakers were the Rev. Dr. Riggs, Mrs. Garrett-Anderson, the Rev. Dr. Barry, Mr. Langdale, and Lord Sandon, whose remarks upon Professor Huxley's speech on Feb. 15 induced the Professor at once to rise and justify his observations. The debate was again adjourned.

ST. ALBAN'S, HOLBORN.—Mr. Mackenochie took part in the services at St. Alban's, Holborn, on Sunday. He wore chasuble, alb, and tunic, and stood with his back to the people while consecrating the elements. The sermon was preached by one of the curates, who said it would soon be impossible for any "Catholic priest" to remain in the Church; but they would not acknowledge the right of a secular tribunal to pronounce judgment. Come what might, they would bow the knee to no Protestant Baal. Rather than render homage to the image which Nebuchadnezzar the King had set up, they would go into the furnace; but let it be known they did not intend to leave the Church of England. They cling to the see of Canterbury with the energy of men clinging for life.

OUTRAGES IN IRELAND.—Agrarian and Ribbon outrages continue to be extremely prevalent in some of the south-western districts of Ireland. On Sunday night a large armed party attacked the houses of two farmers near Tulla, in the county of Clare, demolished the windows, fired several shots into the interiors, killing, however, only a dog. The men attacked, whose names are Macnamara, were about to remove to land adjoining to a family of McGrahs, who were thereby in some way aggrieved. Five men were recognised, and have been apprehended; four of them were McGrahs. In the county of Limerick, on Monday night, a land bailiff on the property of Mr. Conyers was shot dead while eating his supper. His house was within thirty yards of the police-station. This is a case of Ribbonism, and the assassin, who was probably brought from another district to commit the crime, disappeared immediately afterwards, and has not been traced.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON'S FUND.—The annual meeting of the board of management of the Bishop of London's Fund was held, on Monday, at the offices in Pall-mall, under the presidency of the Bishop. The report stated that the total sum received since the formation of the fund had been £420,000. An outline of the work of the fund since its commencement showed that of eighty-one missions established with the fund, twenty had been endowed as new parishes, seven had been transferred to the Rochester diocese, and thirty-five were still maintained at the cost of the fund. Eighteen parochial curates, twenty-nine scripture-readers, and twenty-three parochial mission women were still wholly or partially maintained by it. Grants had also been made for a number of parsonages, schools, mission stations, and new churches. As to future wants, it was stated that there were now twenty-two districts requiring churches, for ten of which sites had still to be provided. The Bishop of London pointed out that the subscriptions received last year amounted to £28,000—a larger sum than in any previous year. Their operations during the period had been somewhat interfered with by the Education Act, and the board had felt it necessary to discount the demand that would be made upon them by a large grant amounting to nearly £29,000.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE PRINCE OF WALES, on behalf of the Queen, held the first Levée of the season, at St. James's Palace, last Saturday afternoon. About 170 presentations were made.

THE KING OF SWEDEN continues to get better. His Majesty is now free from fever.

THE DUKE DE BROGLIE, the new French Ambassador in London, has assumed his duties. The present members of the Embassy retain their places.

THE DUKE OF MONTPENSIER, with his family, it is said, will shortly embark at Cadiz for England.

THE DUKE OF RICHMOND, Earl Granville, and Sir Alexander Milne were on Tuesday sworn in as Elder Brethren of the Trinity House.

MR. CHILDERS arrived at Falmouth, on board the *Enchantress*, on Tuesday. The right hon. gentleman is described as being still in an infirm state of health.

THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH has agreed to preside at the celebration of the centenary of Sir Walter Scott, in Edinburgh, in August next.

COUNT DARU is now spoken of as likely to be appointed French Ambassador at Vienna. The Austrian Government is said to have expressed its willingness to receive him.

MR. GOSCHEN has consented to his name being added to the list of Vice-Presidents of the Charity Organisation Society.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL CARMICHAEL, of the 95th Regiment, was on Tuesday appointed chief constable of Worcestershire, with a salary of £400 per annum and £100 allowances. There were 120 candidates.

A MARRIAGE is arranged between Mr. Vernon Harcourt, M.P., and Mrs. Ives, eldest daughter of Mr. Motley, the late American Minister in London.

A FIRM AT IPSWICH have received an order for 60,000 pairs of shoes and 60,000 pairs of gaiters for the French army.

THE SUM OF £1000 has been given to the funds of the West London Hospital, by W. L. H., through the hospital's bankers, Messrs. Herries, Farquhar, and Co.

THE AGRICULTURAL HALL COMPANY (Limited) will pay a dividend of 10 per cent, placing £1000 to the Debenture Sinking Fund, and carrying forward a balance of £2284.

THE YOUNG HIPPOPOTAMUS in the Zoological Gardens has died from exhaustion. It seemed to have neither power nor will to suck.

THE CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY have received (through their bankers, Messrs. Coutts and Co.) a donation of £100 from "Two Dormice."

THE WEEKLY MORTALITY IN PARIS has lessened from 5000 to 4000, and the cases of smallpox have fallen to 200. Provisions are abundant.

THE COSTS INCURRED BY FRANCE on account of the war are, up to this time, 3½ milliards of francs.

A LIVERPOOL POLICE CONSTABLE, named Jefford, has accidentally poisoned himself by drinking carbolic acid in mistake for beer.

MISS TEMPLE, sister of the Bishop of Exeter, has been elected a member of the School Board of the parish of St. Thomas, adjoining that city.

THE ROADS AND HARBOUR OF COPENHAGEN are free from ice, and open for merchant-ships and steamers.

MR. LEO SCHUSTER, the head of the firm of Messrs. Schuster, Son, and Co., died on Sunday night, in his eightieth year. He was the founder of the various houses which bear his name in England and abroad.

A DRESS CONCERT, in aid of the distressed French peasantry, will be given on Thursday, March 16, in the new large hall of the Bow and Bromley Institute.

A CARPENTER NAMED TAYLOR, twenty-six years of age, was fatally stabbed at Newport, in a street brawl, early on Tuesday morning. His assailant, named Evans, of Neath, a labourer, employed in the repairs of telegraph lines, is in custody.

THE NEW GERMAN IMPERIAL FLAG has just been decided upon, and is adopted already by Bavaria, Wurtemberg, and Baden. It is *mi-partie*—or, sable, gules, and argent, and has for supporters the two Indians armed with maces of the Prussian crest.

THE NEXT EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATES for admission to the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, will commence on Monday, July 3, instead of Monday, June 5, as previously announced.

A LARGE GASOMETER exploded on Monday at the works of the Chartered Gas Company, near Barking. No lives were lost, the workmen having previously left the place on perceiving signs of danger.

THE CORONER'S JURY have returned a verdict of "Wilful murder" against Michael Campbell, one of the men in custody for the burglarious and fatal attack upon the late Mr. Galloway, of Stratford.

A FIRE broke out, on Sunday afternoon, in the Church of St. Michael Bassishaw, in Basinghall-street, through the overheating of a stove. About 6 ft. of the roof was damaged by fire and having to be cut away.

NOTICES HAVE BEEN POSTED on the houses in Hamilton-place, Park-lane, Piccadilly, announcing that the block is to be sold by the Board of Works, under the provisions of the Park-lane Improvement Act. The tenants of many of the mansions have left.

A LAMENTABLE EXPLOSION of Eredamp is reported from South Wales. The scene of the disaster is the Pentre Colliery, Rhondda Valley; and it is feared that forty men, including two volunteers who descended to explore the workings, have been killed.

M. FELIX PYAT says, in an address to the electors of Paris who have sent him to the National Assembly, that any cession of territory to Germany would only encourage England to concoct a quarrel in order to take Toulon, Corsica, Algiers, and Egypt.

AN INQUIRY was held, on Tuesday, upon the bodies of Victor Loynon and his wife, who were lately found dead at 97, Pulteney-street, Soho. The jury found that Madame Loynon had been murdered by her husband, and against the latter a verdict of *felo-de-se* was returned.

AT A NUMEROUSLY-ATTENDED MEETING OF TRADES DELEGATES, held on Wednesday night—Mr. Odger in the chair—a resolution was passed condemning the third or criminal clause in the Trades Unions Bill lately introduced by the Home Secretary, as being exceptional in its character and operation.

THE COMMONS' SELECT COMMITTEE on the Diplomatic and Consular Services is thus constituted:—Mr. Bouverie, Mr. Rylands, Viscount Enfield, Mr. W. H. Gladstone, Mr. Otway, Sir H. L. Bulwer, Sir C. Dike, Mr. Kinnaird, Mr. Holms, Mr. W. Cartwright, Mr. A. Russell, Mr. Whitwell, Mr. Selater-Booth, Mr. S. Sackville, Mr. Matwick, Mr. Baring, Mr. W. Lowther, Mr. Cameron, Mr. F. Stanley, Mr. B. Cochrane, Viscount Barrington, and Mr. F. Walpole.

THE TOTAL RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER from April 1 to Feb. 25 amounted to £60,911,693, as compared with £68,627,608 in the corresponding period of the previous twelve months. The expenditure has been £60,904,081. The balance in the Bank of England on Saturday last was £5,711,064.

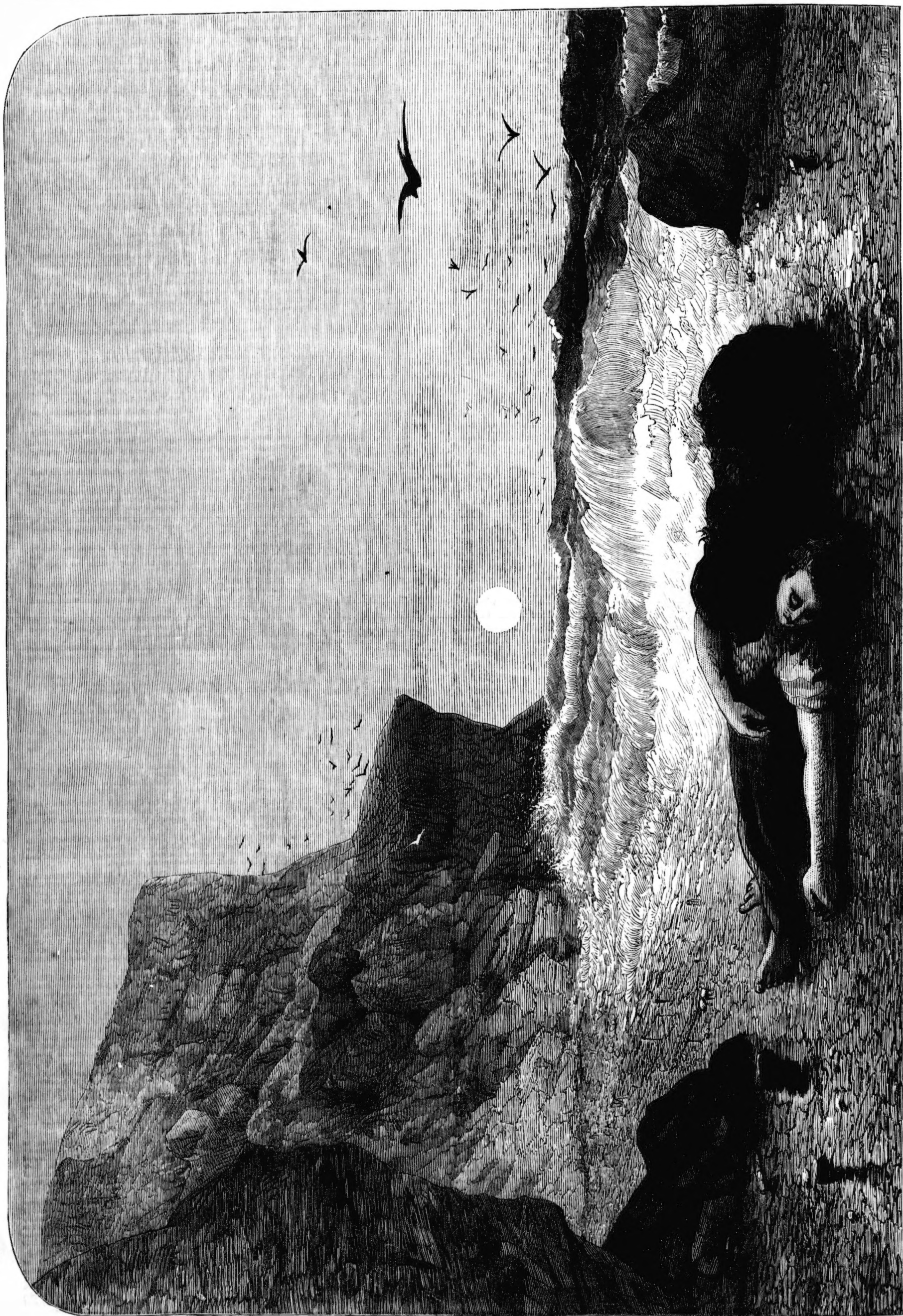
THE SOUTH WALES IRONMASTERS have given notice of a reduction in the wages of the workers. The men have not shown a desire to organise resistance, although there is a strong feeling in some localities that the trade is not in so depressed a state as represented by the masters, and the dividends paid by several of the local iron companies are referred to as a proof of the correctness of this view.

THE FINANCIAL REFORM UNION have adopted a petition to the House of Commons expressive of an opinion that the sum voted last Session for the maintenance of the Army, Militia, and Reserved Forces is amply sufficient to provide a force adequate to the defence of the country and the protection of British interests, and praying the House to refuse to sanction any increase in the Army Estimates for the present year, and that in any measure for securing greater efficiency in the military services the imperative necessity of economy may not be lost sight of.

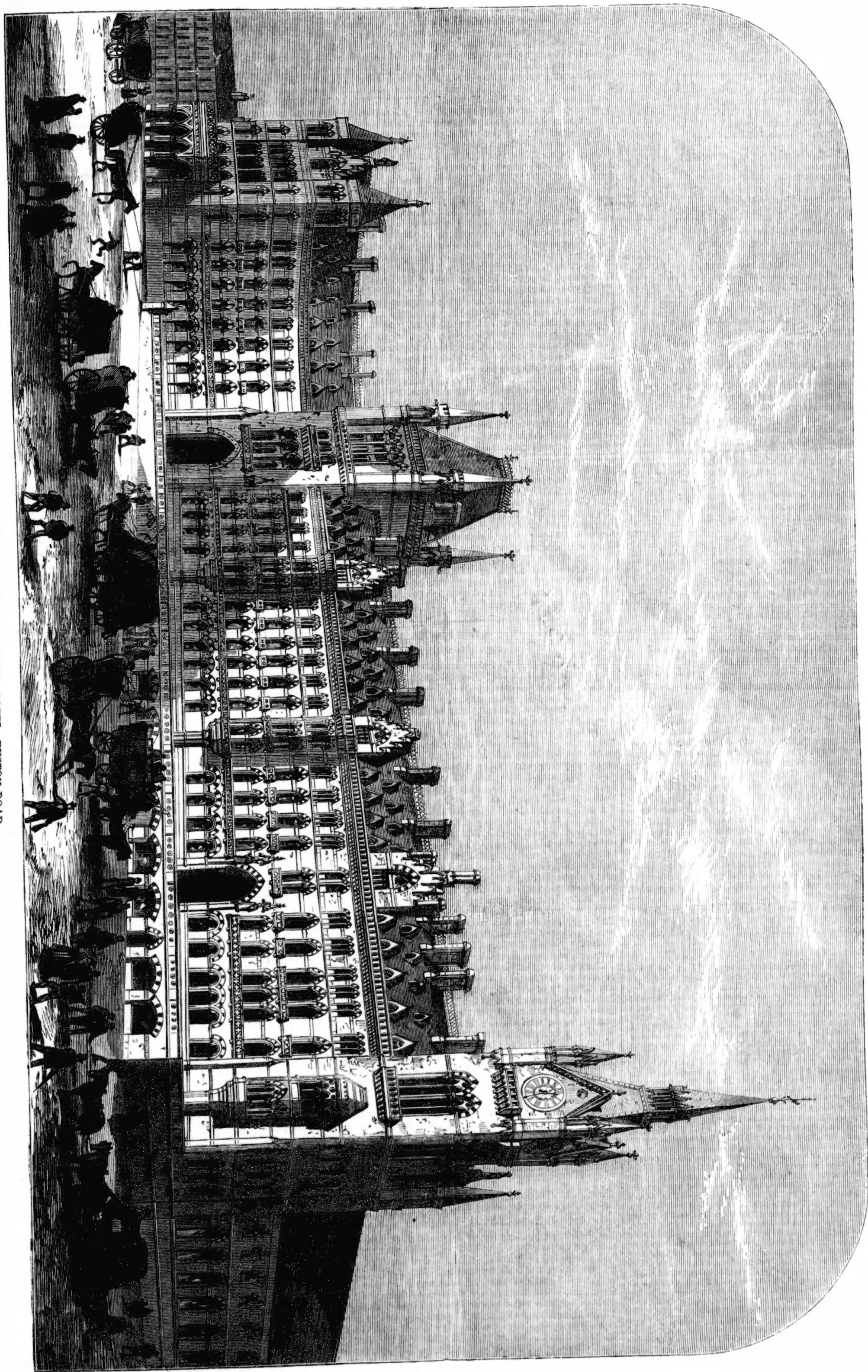
THE FINAL AWARD of the Marquis of Salisbury and Lord Cairns, as arbitrators in the affairs of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Company, was issued to the public on Monday. The principal financial difficulties were disposed of in the award of August last, and that now published deals with the outstanding questions relating to individual claims for comparatively small sums, and provides for the reconstitution and future government of the company.

A DEPUTATION, representing several provincial chambers of commerce on Wednesday waited upon the Postmaster-General, urging him to rescind the restrictions lately placed upon the pattern post. Attention was also called to the present high charges on post-office orders and the registration of letters. Mr. Monsell stated that the two points last mentioned were under his consideration, and that he had prepared a plan with respect to the sample post, which would, he trusted, give satisfaction.

A MEETING OF THE MANSION HOUSE COMMITTEE OF THE FRENCH RELIEF FUND was held on Tuesday, at which it was reported that the subscriptions amounted to £118,500. A letter from M. Thiers to Messrs. Moore and Wortley was read, containing the following passages:—"France will never forget the sympathy that has been testified by the English people, and in particular by the English committee over which the Lord Mayor of London presides. You will please to be to your countrymen the interpreters of the sincere gratitude that I have expressed to you."



A WRECK SCENE: NO LIFE-BOAT NEAR.



THE NEW MIDLAND HOTEL, EUSTON-ROAD.

NO LIFE-BOAT THERE!

BY NICHOLAS MITCHELL, ESQ.

It was a wild and lonely shore,
Girded by rocks; the sea-bird's cry,
The billow's everlasting roar,
The tempest, howling through the sky,
The only sounds—as though Despair
Sat throned, a gloomy monarch there.

The sun went down, black, threatening clouds
Quenching his wonted golden light,
And still they spread, like hanging shrouds,
Storm riding on the wings of night;
And the high rocks the billows lashed,
While, rolling answer, thunders crashed.

Above the thunder and the gale,
The minute-gun is booming now;
See, as the lightnings shimmer pale,
You vessel with half-buried bow!
Her cable snaps—all hope is o'er,
Her course is tow'rd that fatal shore.

She strikes!—the breakers o'er her sweep;
The hapless crew, so stoutly brave,
Are powerless now; the foaming deep
Must be their cold unhonoured grave;
Hark to their anguish-cry—their last
Wild prayer to God that swells the blast!

No arm to save—no life-boat near;
Oh, had that boat—a thing of power,
That fronts all dangers, mocks at fear,—
Come, angel-like, at that dread hour,
Haply no soul had darkly died—
Each safely wafted o'er that tide!

They struggle with the raging billow,
They shriek, they sink—then all are still,
Laid coldly on their ocean pillow,
The bleak winds o'er them whistling shrill!
They perished, asking aid in vain—
No life-boat on that stormy main.

A dog, strong swimmer, reached the strand;
He only baffled ruthless death;
He found his master, licked his hand,
And on him breathed his loving breath;
Looked on that form, stretched cold and low,
And e'en death's meaning seemed to know.

Fond, faithful brute, he stood and whined,
And would not quit that lifeless clay;
The drowned one had been gentle-kind;
He watched and howled till dawn of day:
Man's friend, true mourner of the dead,
Oft true when human friends have fled.

They came at last, and on that shore
Found the poor victim of the deep;
The dog, exhausted, howled no more,
But by his master seemed to sleep;
The wave-beat sands their mournful bed,
Winds wailed their dirge—for both were dead.

Oh, had man's wealth and mercy given
A life-boat to that shore of gloom—
Where storms so oft sweep angry heaven—
Each soul might have been snatched from doom!
Stout hearts still battled through the years,
No widows, orphans, shedding tears.—*The Lifeboat.*

THE MIDLAND HOTEL, EUSTON-ROAD.

ONE of the handsomest—certainly one of the most ornate—structures in London is the new Midland Hotel, Euston-road, which is now approaching completion. The edifice forms part of the Midland Railway Company's London terminus, and forms a very striking architectural feature in Euston-road.

When the Midland Railway Company conceived the idea of erecting their great terminal station at St. Pancras, and added to it the project of a terminus hotel, they invited, in 1865, the following architects to compete for the design of the hotel building—viz., Mr. G. Gilbert Scott, R.A.; Mr. Edward Barry, A.R.A.; Mr. Somers Clarke; Mr. Owen Jones; Mr. Sorby, of London; Messrs. Lockwood and Morson, of Leeds; Messrs. Walter, Barker, and Ellis, of Manchester; and Messrs. Hine and Evans, of Nottingham. The result of this competition was the selection of Mr. Scott's design, which has been carried out at a considerable cost, though the whole extent of the building originally intended has not been undertaken as yet.

The contractors for this work are Messrs. Jackson and Shaw, the quality of whose work in all the trades is of a very high order. Mr. John Saville has acted as the clerk of the works from the beginning.

HOMES FOR WORKING BOYS.—A conversation was held at the house of Mr. George Hanbury, Portman-square, on Monday evening, to promote the establishment of Homes for Working Boys in London. Mr. Hanbury, who is the treasurer, and Mr. A. O. Charles, the hon. secretary, are the spirit of the movement, and upon them devolved the duty of explaining its origin and purpose. It was begun in the early part of last year, the object being to provide homes for boys who were without them, or, as Mr. Charles said, to bridge over the interval between a boy leaving an industrial school or reformatory and his attainment of a position in which he might maintain himself. The work is therefore virtually supplementary to the reformatory and refuge work which is being promoted so largely elsewhere; and it is but natural to be told that some of the boys who have come under the operation of the society during the few months of its working were once inmates of the Home for Little Boys, the Boys' Refuge in Whitechapel, the Boys' Home in Regent's Park-road, and the Great Queen-street Refuge. Two houses at present exist—one in Spital-square, Bishopsgate-street; the other in Lower Seymour-street, Portman-square. They accommodate about seventy boys, the fundamental principle of whose admittance is that they pay for themselves as far as they can. Although they may come, therefore, from reformatories and even work-houses, they now begin a point of existence where they no longer depend absolutely upon charity. This is especially forced upon them; but as the cost per boy per week, including food, is 4s. 6d., it is apparent that with boys earning less than that sum the institution cannot be wholly self-supporting. The wages earned by the boys in the two existing homes range from 4s. to 12s. per week; and owing to the low rate of wages, and a plethora of boy labour, the institutions have suffered a loss of nearly 2s. per week upon each inmate. The object of the pleasant gathering in Mrs. Hanbury's drawing-room was to enlist the sympathies of the benevolent, and explain to them how necessary and beneficial the object to be attained must be. Some of the statements made and descriptions given of the common lodging-houses from which it is hoped to save the hundreds of friendless boys in London were simply appalling; and whatever other result the meeting may have, it gave to the zealous originators of the scheme hearty sympathy and encouragement. The boys have, to begin with, a home, superintended by master and matron, with many comforts provided for them; but, lest mischief should be found for idle hands to do, the directors add to the more material appliances reading-rooms, gymnasiums, and other provisions of a recreative and educational character, and take care to build the whole structure upon a religious basis. Help was the one thing asked for by Mr. Hanbury and Mr. Charles; and with their appeals the committee thankfully acknowledged a liberal offer they have received from Mr. S. Morley, M.P., to furnish and fit up a third home and to pay the rent for four years. It was in some such way that the Home for Little Boys, with which the names of the above-named gentlemen have so long been associated, was founded, and if a similar success shall follow the effort to establish homes for working boys in London, the benefits conferred will be immeasurable. Warm approval was expressed of the project by Mr. G. Godwin, Dr. Lancaster, Dr. Rigg, Sir J. Hamilton, Sir J. F. Buxton, Mr. Rawlinson, C.E., Mr. Campbell, and others, and a hearty vote of thanks was given to the host and hostess before the meeting concluded.

THE LOUNGER.

I HAVE read Mr. Childers's minute on the loss of the Captain, and the reply thereto written by Sir Spencer Robinson. Both are lengthy documents, but not unintelligible even to landsmen; and I think that everybody who reads these papers carefully and with no foregone conclusion in his mind must come to these conclusions:—1st, That the design of the ship was faulty; 2nd, that, whoever was responsible for this design, the Controller and Constructor of the Navy were not; 3rd, that, however faulty the design may have been, the ship, with her 500 lives, need not have been lost. Then, why was she lost? Simply because, in stormy weather, she carried too much sail. That she did carry too much sail is certain; for it is in evidence that though with her low freeboard she ought to have carried less sail than other ships in the fleet, she carried more. "Every ship in the squadron," says Sir Spencer Robinson's minute, "either shortened sail or had their sails blown away. The Captain did neither." Again: "We find her carrying more sail than any other ship in the fleet on a squally night, and with her yards braced up." But how came this to be? Was not Captain Burgoyne an excellent seaman and an experienced commander? Everybody who knew him is loud in his praise. Captain Cowper Coles, too, was equally experienced. Captain Coles thirty-nine years. How was it, then, that when the other ships in the squadron lowered their sails, the sails of the Captain were not lowered? To this no answer can be given. It is a mystery that never will be cleared up. And the mystery deepens and appears to be astounding when we come to read the following extract from a letter by Captain Sherard Osborne, which appeared in the *Times* on Sept. 14 last. "Captain Cowper Coles," says the writer, "was fully aware of the serious nature of the experiment he was about to enter upon (in designing a sailing-ship with a low freeboard), and prior to the first cruise of the Captain we had a long conversation upon this subject, and, by diagrams and models which were before us, he agreed with me that if the leverage of the sails canted the low-sided ship over beyond a certain point the danger of her not recovering herself would be very great, and I urged him to be most careful in his experiments on this head, and at all costs not to hesitate, if caught in bad weather, to furl all sails and bring the ship under steam and her bow to the sea, an opinion in which he cordially agreed; and on the last occasion I saw him and Captain Burgoyne together we were unanimous on this point." It would seem from the evidence which I have quoted from Sir Spencer Robinson's minute that the very danger feared occurred—i.e., "the leverage of the sails did cant over the low-sided ship beyond a certain point." But, alas! instead of furling all sails, none were furling, and so that occurred which all these three experienced sailors foresaw might happen—the ship could not recover herself, but turned clean over and went down. This seems to be an inevitable conclusion. But, if so, what are we to think of the conduct of these two experienced captains? It is a mystery, and there we must leave the matter. By-the-way, I see I have forgotten one fact which, if possible, deepens the mystery still more. On Sept. 6 (the Captain was lost on the 7th, soon after midnight) the Commander-in-Chief went on board the Captain with his flag captain and flag lieutenant, and remained all day watching the performances of the ship. He states that he called Captain Coles's attention to her great heel at a time when "the lee gunwale of the ship was level with the water," and "the sea washing over the lee side of the deck, fore and aft, and striking the after turret to a depth of about 18 in. or 2 ft." He said to Captain Coles, "I cannot reconcile myself to this state of things, so very unusual in all my experience;" but Captain Coles remarked, "Oh! there is not the slightest danger."

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES, ETC.

The great "card" of the *Cornhill* is, of course, Mr. Browning's fine Breton sea-ballad of "Hervé Riel." When this gentleman published "Bells and Pomegranates," some innocent readers wondered what the title meant. Dear me! said the poet, innocently; I thought everybody knew that, in Rabbinical lore, bells meant sound, and pomegranates, sense. Such was Mr. Browning's idea of what everybody could understand. That story about "Sordello" is well known. It has been said that the poem contains only two intelligible lines. Douglas Jerrold lit upon it just as he was recovering after a long illness, and couldn't make it out. He asked his wife to dip into it. "Why, I can't understand a word!" cried the poor lady. "Thank God, thank God!" shrieked Jerrold, slapping his leonine brows, "I am not mad! I thought I had gone stupid during my illness." The story is very old, and probably more invented than true; and Mr. Browning can now laugh at it. Everybody can understand the Songs of the Cavaliers, and the "Blot in the 'Scutcheon"; and all good critics avow the belief that there is more solid poetic ore in the mind of this poet than in any English mind since Shakespeare's. "Hervé Riel" comes to an immense public, among whom Mr. Browning, like other original writers, has fairly fought for and conquered a new taste, almost a new instinct. It is the poem for which we happen to know he received £100; your readers will remember how, through his munificence and a mistaken comment upon it, the fact leaked out in connection with the recent subscriptions for sorely-trying France. Get the *Cornhill*, and read Hervé Riel.

During Brougham's life, and for some time after his death, a great deal was made of his alleged eccentricities, and especially of the difficulty of working with him. In the famous and lamentable Lord Durham matter it is too much to hope that his posthumous fame will alter in his favour the verdict that contemporary opinion passed upon him during his lifetime; but we may not uncharitably believe that so vivacious and energetic a man—intellectually taller by a head than any of his colleagues—was often misjudged. And, after all, it is difficult to admire the moral taste that would not prefer him to "plain John Campbell." He may have hated Durham with a naughty hatred; but if he did, he was blinded by some better feeling to his own guilt. He was never cold-blooded, like "plain John," who was ever a model of the soberer virtues supposed to be dear to the British heart: and his anger, though fierce and implacable, had no slow venom in it. Said Bentham—

O Brougham! a strange mystery you are;
Nul fait unquam sibi tam dispar:
So foolish and so wise, so great so small,
Everything now, to-morrow nought at all.

But this kind of thing may be taken as the epigraph of all men of Brougham's stamp.

To Berkeley every virtue under heaven—

Yes, but even in Berkeley, if we could have seen into his life as closely as we see into Brougham's, we should have found him at times unequal to himself—though not in ways characteristic of the gladiator, for Berkeley was not a man of that kidney. But it would be a curious thing if the result of the publication of Brougham's autobiography should be to drive the public estimate of him back to what it was when he was "Yorkshire's glory." Thus far, he shows as a much kinder person than most people have latterly supposed him to have been. And if the Lord Durham business should, in a subsequent volume of the three (of which the publishers have thus far only given us one), be cleared up, or much illuminated, the world will forgive all the rest to Brougham.

Appropos of Bentham's lines, one may recall that frequent mispronunciation of Brougham's name of which they supply an instance. Technically a dissyllable, Brougham is conventionally a monosyllable. Lord Byron, as "half a Scot," knew this:—

Beware, lest blundering Brougham [= Broom] destroy the sale,
Turn beef to bannocks, cauliflowers to kale.

But in Yorkshire his name used to be turned into Bruffam even. Who can forget the Charles Mathews story? He and some friend

(I don't remember who) were returning inside the stage-coach from Yorkshire, where Baron Hullock had been the Assize Judge; and some coarse Yorker had been making himself so disagreeable that at last Mathews resolved to silence the fellow by a trick. "O! doant care a fig," says Hodge, in reply to some gentle hint—"not a button, I doant; not if it was t' gret Baron Hullock and Mr. Bruffam himself 'at was in t' co-ach! O! 'll do as oi loike!" So says Mathews, tapping the man's knee, and speaking in his ear, "Don't speak quite so loud, my good friend; the fact is, I am Baron Hullock"—"O! Lud! O! Christ! O! Lud!" says the farmer. "Yes," continues Mathews, very confidentially; "and my friend here is Mr. Bruffam." This was too much for Hodge. He thrust his head out at the carriage window, and roared to the guard, "Let me oot! Let me oot, I say! I'm na fit company for the gret Baron Hullock and Mr. Bruffam!" And let out he was, to the top of the coach, and also to the great comfort of Mathews and his friend. However, to return—it is instructive to note how often the poets guide us to the true treatment of a world. For example, as Lowell notes, Cowper himself tells us to call him Cooper because he rhymes his name with "trooper."

And now to return still more closely. Some of the facts of Brougham's very early life are striking. For example, that at about sixteen he hit all by himself upon the binomial theorem, or, at least, "struck it" close up to it. That he could speak at nine months, and so forth, is not so strange. I think Sir Walter Scott's "Pet Marjorie" could do that. So could Connop Thirlwall, now of St. David's. So could a boy that I knew of, who could read short words before he was two, and perfectly describe people who died when he was of that age. This person when he grew up had a daughter, who at ten months had quite a little repertoire of music, which she could sing correctly (Mem. for parents—not being quite an ass, he kept her away from music and turned her loose in the garden). Yet a writer in one of the magazines the other day spoke of it as remarkable (italicising the words) that he could remember things from four years and a half old. However, Brougham was, of course, very "precocious," as people call it. And his mother seems to have known it. In later life, we all know that, whatever his engagements, he would find time to write to his mother every day. There is one queer story of his childhood which is possibly not true. It is, that when he fell down stairs one day and a nurse exclaimed that he had "crackit" his skull, he cried out, "No, no; it was crackit before!" In later youth his splendid constitution and marvellous health enabled him to do wonders in more ways than one. Not only would he walk the soles off his shoes in autumn tours, for when twenty-five years old he had a cupboard full of—door-knockers wrenched off in midnight raids upon townfolk's houses! Everybody will look with eager interest for the rest of the story. The first time I saw Brougham was when I was a mere child—at a large public meeting, and well do I remember his tall black velvet stock, his big nose, and his gaunt gestures as he took the chair Lord John was to have taken. The last time was when he was a mere pantaloon to look at. Yet he was heavily laden, in both arms, with books that most of the peers would have made a porter carry. Happening to open a door almost dead in his face, I jerked down one of his big books. Of course, I replaced it, and saw the old lion well on his way—not being able, indeed, to keep down an under-breathed "Long life to your Lordship!" His nose twitched, he fired up, and grunted something of which the tone told that it was cordial; and the black and white check pants slowly shuffled away, under the draggle-tailed coat, surmounted by the hat that hung back down to the neck, "as limp as a pint pot on an area rail." I heard the shuffle of his boots or shoes for ever so far, not a soul being near, and everything as still as the grave in that summer's afternoon.

In the second volume of his edition of Pope the Rev. Whitwell Elwin finds fault with the poet's versification in the most pedantic way. He says of the line—

False eloquence, like the prismatic glass,

that it is only metre, or, in fact, anything but flat prose, when you accentuate the last syllable of *eloquence* (eloquence), and also the word *the* (like *thé*). Mr. Elwin is, of course, a very scholarly writer; but if he were the greatest scholar living that should not prevent one's saying that this is incompetent criticism. The fact is, the line is not only one of the most admired, it is one of the best in Pope. It is not a true iambic; but the poet who composed an heroic poem all in strict iambics would be as bad as the musician who never introduced a discord, or suspended a chord. If Mr. Elwin were to make this criticism before a jury of poets—say such poor creatures as Chaucer, Shakespeare, Jonson, Spenser, and Keats—he would be politely shown the door. The fact is Pope did not introduce nearly discords enough for perfect musical effect. See Leigh Hunt *passim* on Pope and Dryden.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

I am glad to find that Mr. W. H. Lister thinks it worth while to return to the high-class and artistic entertainment for which the OLYMPIC was justly becoming famous. The series of tasty plays which commenced with "The Princess," by Mr. W. S. Gilbert, and was followed by Mr. Reece's "Undine," unhappily was broken off to allow for the production of a nonsensical burlesque called "Paul and Virginia." The trouble which has evidently been taken with "Perfect Love," by Mr. Reece, would again seem to show that there is money to be made as well as credit to be gained by poems for the stage. Considerable pains have been taken with the new fairy poem. The costumes, for instance, are carefully designed. They are, moreover, rich and in good taste. The scenery, if not of the very best kind, and though perhaps a trifle too ambitious, is appreciated by those who will not accept a stage-poem without a vast amount of glitter. Mr. Reece has certainly done his work well. His verse is elegant, occasionally touching the hem of the garment of poetry. It is ever verse, always pleasant; and after this successful first attempt, Mr. Reece may be congratulated on his sudden conversion. When Mr. Reece writes again he may possibly be induced to throw a little more point into his work, and to remember that a mixed audience requires stronger food than would be swallowed by magazine readers. Miss Reinhardt is the heroine, and a better choice could not have been made for Reiza, the beloved one of Sir Huon of Bordeaux. The audience can see, after Miss Reinhardt has delivered one line, that she is an accomplished and delightful actress. For acting, however, there is not much opportunity. The whole thing is very even and pleasant, and it is undeniably satisfactory that so strange an innovation as "Perfect Love" has been received with so much favour.

At DRURY LANE "Amy Robsart" has been revived, and, with the aid of the clap-trap it contains, the play goes very well. Miss Victoria Vokes takes the place of Miss Neilson. She is no actress as yet, but, with some practice, she might be made one.

Mrs. Rousby's Rosalind is as weak as water, and it is quite clear that this lady has been over praised. I watched this Rosalind most attentively, but I failed to see that Mrs. Rousby had any notion of the text. A more uninteresting performance I have not seen for a long time. I fancied that Rosalind would have been just the character for this favourite actress. She does not, of course, deserve to be mentioned in the same week as Mrs. Theodore Martin (Miss Helen Faucit), for instance, and would have to sing small to Miss Neilson, Mrs. Scott Siddons—yes, and Mrs. Francis Drake (Miss Bouvier). Those who did not see "As You Like It," as revived at the QUEEN'S, did not miss much, though at a professedly Shakespearean theatre it is sad to see so many blots.

Mr. Byron's drama, called "Wait and Hope," lately produced at the Gaiety, is, I think, likely to be a useful play for Mr. Toole. Like all Mr. Byron's dramas, it contains recollections from every imaginable play. We have bits of every known domestic drama, and the child incident reproduced from "Leah" and "Mary Warner." Thanks to Mr. Toole's unflagging spirits, the play went very well, and I shall have more to say about it on another occasion. It is very fairly played, in addition to Mr. Toole, by Miss Carlotta Addison and Miss Rose Coghlan. Mr.

A man is also useful. Mr. Taylor overacts painfully, and spoils a very good part with mouthing and ranting. Real pipes, real grog, real beef, real comic songs, a real smoking party, real toasts, and real musical honours, will possibly cheer those up who are tired of the punishment of villains and the snivelling of children.

FINE ARTS.

NEW BRITISH INSTITUTION.

THE second spring exhibition of the New British Institution is open early for the season, which bids fair to be an exceptional one in respect of the celerity with which it commences. This very interesting gallery, at 39, Old Bond-street, cannot, however, be regarded as the fulfilment of last year's promise; for the art-student is exceptional in another and an unfortunate respect. There are many admirable works which have gone to the numerous supplementary exhibitions of the past winter, and are not therefore displayed at the regular galleries, and many eminent foreign artists send no pictures at present, until the peace has just concluded begins to blossom into fruit. Among more than 200 paintings in the institution, a large number will at once attract attention, not so much for their striking qualities as for a tone of excellence that will bear steady criticism; and there is, at all events, sufficient variety to make a visit to this bright little gallery a pleasant morning engagement.

Beginning with the landscapes, which form by far the larger proportion, we may notice Mr. J. Thorpe's "Under the Elms, Hyde Park" (3), a very excellent bit of work, with nice effect of light upon the turf beneath the wide-spreading boughs, where the sheep are standing with lazy enjoyment. "A Village Pond" (6), by Mr. J. Peel, is also a capital picture, with that simple appreciation of rustic scenery which is too often lost sight of in more ambitious efforts. In "A Thames Barge" (30) Mr. W. H. Doust has achieved an exquisite effect of rippling water and mellow colouring, admirable in so small a work; and Mr. T. Whittle has also sent a charming little rural gem, under the title of "A Rustic Lane" (81). "Eashing Bridge" (37), by Mr. J. Dakin, is a third small work that should receive attention.

Mr. J. van Luppen's "View at Fill, near Colmar" (Rhenish Prussia) is a delicate and finely-toned picture, marvellous for the liquid character of its still pool of water and the perfect effect of the clouded sky. The next picture, "In the Marshes near Raimham" (40), is one of the best pictures that Mr. W. Luker has exhibited—full of wonderful handling, with cattle and herbage wrought to exquisite finish, and yet without any sacrifice of freedom to elaborate painstaking. Five beautiful little bits of work are to be seen, hung a little too low for thorough appreciation, but challenging notice:—"Moel Siabod, Capel Curig" (45), by Mr. F. Muschamp—a glorious example of tender finish and even tone in sky and water; "A Peep from the Home Close, Sussex" (46), by Mr. R. A. K. Marshall; "Early Morning—Dumpton Bay" (17), by Mr. W. Williams—a fine little bit of dark and grey effects; and "Haverston Bridge, near Henley-on-Thames" (48), by Mr. M. A. Langdale—a bright, pleasant memento of a bright and pleasant spot.

"The Miller's Waggon" (50), by J. Peel, is another charming work among the smaller pictures, with finely-managed evening light and a capital effect of water at a shallow ford. Mr. Finnie's "Black Pool" (51) is an example of how water may be painted and of the solid handling of hillside foliage. Another marvelously-rendered scene is Mr. Van Luppen's "Souvenir des Ardennes" (79), a great expanse of lush pasture, intersected with a dyke-stream, and perfectly beautiful in the moist effect not only of the broken ground, but of the green-tinted hills that form the background to the groups of slow ruminating cattle.

In quite a different style is Mr. W. B. Scott's "Glen in Ayrshire" (96), a very graceful and finely suggestive study of tangled herb, grass, and foliage on a rugged glenside, with a little trawling stream winding its way among the masses of rock. Mr. Needham's "Path to the Village—Sutton" (97) is another excellent picture—quiet enough, but attractive by its artistic finish and beauty. Mr. C. Davidson, jun., sends a capital "Corn-Field" (134), a scene in the neighbourhood of Redhill; and Mr. J. Hayler, two of his characteristic pictures "The Horse Chestnut" (159)—a magnificent tree beneath which an idle lad lies on his face absorbed in a book—and a larger work, "On the River Alde" (172), a fine evenly-painted water-piece, dark and deep in tone, but with excellent evenness and congruity of colour. A very excellent "Landscape" (181), by M. Castelli, is a work that reminds us of the old Italian manner, and is full of suggestion. M. A. Wüst has contributed "A Lake Scene—Early Morning" (183), finely executed; the greenish mists rising from wood and water being admirably rendered and contrasting well with the deer and fawns which are in the foreground. "On the Thames at Pangbourne" (187), by M. de Brianski, is a charming bit of painting; but perhaps the most remarkable work on this wall is M. Lamorinière's "Dutch Village" (195), a picture full of wonderful effect of dappled sky and its reflection in water; but, bold as it is, a work that will grow upon you as being only bold enough to dare to reproduce a real effect with admirable skill and appreciation.

Of other paintings there are many which will not be regarded as eminently successful; but some are of high character. Among them we cannot place Mr. Val. W. Bromley's "It-proof" (12)—a small picture representing an ascetic friar rebuking a young girl, whose lover seems just to have succeeded in escaping behind a partition, having left his hat on the floor. The work is raw and poor in colour, not definitely humorous, and aggravating because it suggests that the artist could have sent a much better work if he had only "taken a very little more pains."

"Minette Modiste" (13), by Mr. F. de Bruyker, is a capital painting of a kitten making a plaything of a fashionable lace-trimmed bonnet. It is full of spirit and admirably painted. Mr. Lacy sends a nice figure of a girl, dressed in white, sorrowfully reading a letter which brings "News from the War" (19); and, under a similar title, Mr. A. J. Verhoeven Bull contributes a picture of two young German ladies, one of whom, reading a letter, looks slightly amused, while the face of the other is hidden on her companion's shoulder, presumably to hide a paroxysm, not of laughter, but of grief. Professor Verlat's "Apple of Discord" is a curiously-painted representation of a boy and girl struggling for a large pippin, which the boy is endeavouring to thrust into his capacious mouth for a greedy bite. "That Horrid German" (28), by Mr. W. Gale, is a very pretty little picture, admirable in texture and finish, not having any immediate relation to the recent war, but representing a dainty little lady shut up for having neglected her lesson, and condemned to bread-and-water for dinner. Nobody can help sympathising with the sweet little pouting face, and many a gentle voice will instinctively say "What a shame!" as they look at "No. 28," without the necessity of referring to the catalogue. Mr. G. W. Boks has made some effort at a pretentious picture in his "Lost Child" (44), and it cannot be denied that the work is admirable in drawing, colour, and finish; but it is deficient in conception. There is a want of naturalness in the three fashionably-attired young ladies finding the peasant child in the wood, and the want of that rustic simplicity of story which would have made such a subject great in the hands of some of the old masters is altogether wanting.

Mr. A. W. Baynes sends, in "Eavesdropping" (71), a bright, intense study of old tapestry, brocade dress, and antique delf and china, to which the female figure at the curtain is but an accessory, and therefore no story is told or suggested. Mr. A. Savill Lumley's gorgeous female in "The Jewel Casket" (74) reminds us of those once-fashionable "stage characters" which were made up into dramatic realities by means of tinsel, scraps of velvet, and Dutch metal. "Boys Playing" (75), by Mr. C. Marchauw, is a clean-finished picture, remarkable less for its character than for its clear tones and careful drawing. It is, however, the production of a thorough workman, who is also an artist, even though there may be a lack in the sense of colour. With Mr. Haynes Williams's "Débutante" (82), a picture in which

the artist exhibits his consummate skill in handling and texture by means of a white satin robe, we must conclude our notice of an exhibition to which more space might well be devoted if pressure of current news did not prevent.

Literature.

Lilliput Lectures. By the Author of "Lilliput Levée." London: Strahan and Co.

IN "Lilliput Levée" the author of this work achieved one great success; and in "Lilliput Lectures" he is sure to achieve another. A more thoroughly useful and natural book was never published. The author knows perfectly how to write for the young. He never talks namby-pamby, as ordinary manufacturers of books for youth seem to think it incumbent upon them to do; and yet he is intensely colloquial and familiar. He speaks from a high stand-point; but he does not talk over the heads of his supposed juvenile audience, because he at once lifts them up to his own level, albeit quite unconsciously to themselves. Though dealing with important, often exalted and even abstruse themes, and ever dealing with them worthily, he does so in the simplest of language, and with an entire absence of anything like effort. You cannot read a couple of pages till you feel that you are in presence of a man who possesses in a high degree that most valuable faculty—the knack of putting things in the right way. He tells us in the Introduction that he has taken great pains to do this so as to give offence to none; and we can well believe him. Immense art has been exercised in stating truths and yet never dogmatizing; and the perfection of the art is shown in this, that the fact of its having been practised is nowhere perceptible. The author handles such themes as these:—"The World," "The Sky," "Cities," "Science and Philosophy," "Art and Artists," "Trade," "The Family," "Thoughts of God," "Government," "Character," "Justice, Mercy, Charity," "In Church"—and he always so handles them as to convey a vast deal of information, without making it apparent that he is teaching at all. He engages the attention of his hearers, and carries them along with him, in a quiet, kindly way, such as Mr. Pickwick might have done, had that benevolent person devoted himself to training the young idea. Evidently, the author of "Lilliput Lectures" has had a good deal of experience in the difficult art of teaching, besides having a natural "mission" that way. The lectures are meant to be suggestive rather than exhaustive; to furnish materials for home instruction, rather than to be perfect discourses. They are thus fitted both for the use of the tutor—the maternal tutor especially—and for self-instruction by the pupil. Were our fireside surrounded by youthful faces—as, alas! it is not now—we should assuredly deliver many a homily from the texts furnished in "Lilliput Lectures;" and if we should be only half as successful in expanding as the author has been in suggesting, there would be no fear of our proving a dull talker.

St. Michael's Priory. By MARY MUDIE. 2 vols. London: Chapman and Hall.

THE difficulty of telling a sustained narrative in the first person, or autobiographical style, is proverbial—at all events among authors; yet this is the style adopted by Miss Mudie (if "Miss" be the right handle to our authoress's name), and very successfully has she worked it. The dramatic interest is well sustained throughout—increasing, in fact, as the narrative proceeds; and the characters of the three principal actors—those of the heroine, of her father, and of old Hannah, the faithful but unlucky servant and friend of the family—are powerfully drawn, the latter especially. Indeed, we may say that Hannah Corbet is a creation that will live in the reader's mind long after the book has been laid aside. The story opens with a somewhat unnecessary and slightly repulsive assertion of the narrator's right to be thought "a lady" in the conventional or "blue-blood" sense, but this is soon forgotten in the feeling that the writer really is a lady in a better sense, notwithstanding her humble and even sordid surroundings; and one soon gets deeply interested in her, her love, her troubles, and her trials. The dialogue, to be sure, is occasionally mild even to weakness; but then there are no long speeches, and the talk is soon over, and we get to business that advances the narrative again. The interest of the story centres round the career of Gaspar Faed, the representative of an old but decayed family, of whose once extensive possessions St. Michael's Priory, a half-ruined edifice, is all that remains. To repair the family fortunes is the passion of Gaspar's life, which he indulges to the neglect of every other duty, even that of the maintenance and education of his only child, Janet Faed, the heroine, whom he throws upon the care of old Hannah, and makes no inquiry concerning her for many years. His efforts, we learn by-and-by, were long attended by continual failures. At last he suddenly returns to the old home a rich man, but silent, repellent, and of disquiet spirit; and no wonder, for his prosperity had been founded on an unworthy deed—robbery from a dead friend's body and the consequent defrauding of that friend's family. The fear of discovery haunts him; a witness of the act also turns up unexpectedly; and the incidents arising out of these complications and the efforts of Gaspar Faed and old Hannah to suppress the evidence of the "maistor's" guilt constitute the materials of a simple but well-told story. All, however, comes right at last; Faed is forgiven, makes restitution and "a good end," perishing in an effort to save lives from a shipwreck near the old priory; and the heroine marries the lover of her youth and early poverty. Altogether, a very readable story is "St. Michael's Priory."

Wonders of the Human Body. From the French of A. LE PILEUR. London: Blackie and Son.

Those who regard the intelligent study of physiology as a necessary part of education, will rejoice to see that this admirable work has appeared in an English translation, and in a translation so compact, refined, and exquisitely clear as to preserve, not only the accuracy, but the elegance and the ease of the original. This accuracy of detail in describing the structure of the body is combined with so admirable a method that the book may, as the preface declares, form part of any family library. There is nothing in it to shock either sensibility or good taste, and yet its remarkable trustworthiness will commend it to those who have already attained some scientific knowledge. Beginning with references to certain ancient notions respecting the human frame, the whole general structure of the body is described in a succession of chapters, each of which is interesting, not only for its clearness of explanation and the excellent diagrams by which it is illustrated, but by a crystallisation of language which conveys much information in a few well-constructed sentences. The chapters on the eye and the ear are admirable, not only for their interesting and lucid method, but for their references to science and art in connection with physical perceptions.

The Home Nurse: a Manual for the Sick-Room and the Nursery. By ESTHER LE HARDY. Third Edition. To which is added a Chapter on Infection and Disinfectants. London: Robert Hardwick.

WE have much pleasure in recommending this little manual, whose title speaks for itself, so far as the contents go. But we are very much puzzled by the writing. Sometimes it is exceedingly good, and more frequently as bad as it can possibly be. The writer writes "drank" for the perfect participle of drink, and seems to have a prejudice against a short word when she can find a long one. However, her instructions are so admirable, the spirit in which she lays down her rules for the sick-room is so good, and she says so many original things, that we gladly overlook the faults of the book considered as mere literature, and cheerfully state that it is a volume to be bought, kept, and valued.

Some of the best things said by the author are a little startling. "It is erroneous to suppose that men have less personal delicacy than women in illness," whether towards "men or women." We should rather think it was erroneous; but the author would scarcely have written this, we presume, unless she had reason to know that it was necessary information for a good many female nurses. What she says about low dresses is not well managed. We all know that dresses are often worn a great deal too low; but, for all that, the practice in question is founded in nature; and to argue that if a man were to wear low dresses he would be hunted from society is idle. If a girl were to enter a ball-room with legs bare to the knee she would be "hunted" also; but, for all that, the Irish peasant girls go about in this style, and they are the purest women in the world.

Now and then we notice an error. "Diet, in all cases, should be proportioned to the quantity of exercise taken by the individual. What would do the harvest labourer good would bring disease to the man of letters." This assuredly needs qualification. Hard mental labour wears out the tissues quite as fast as any "exercise;" and any physiologist will tell us that even after the excitement of the theatre a supper may be necessary.

ELECTIONS took place, on Tuesday, at Stalybridge and Hereford city. At the former, the official declaration of the poll is as follows:—Mr. Buckley (Liberal), 2198; Mr. Powell (Conservative), 2033; majority for Buckley, 195. Mr. Buckley thanked the electors, and said his success was mainly due to the working men. At Hereford the Conservatives triumphed, the figures given as the result of the voting being:—Arbuthnot (Conservative) 934; Hayter (Liberal), 665; majority, 266.

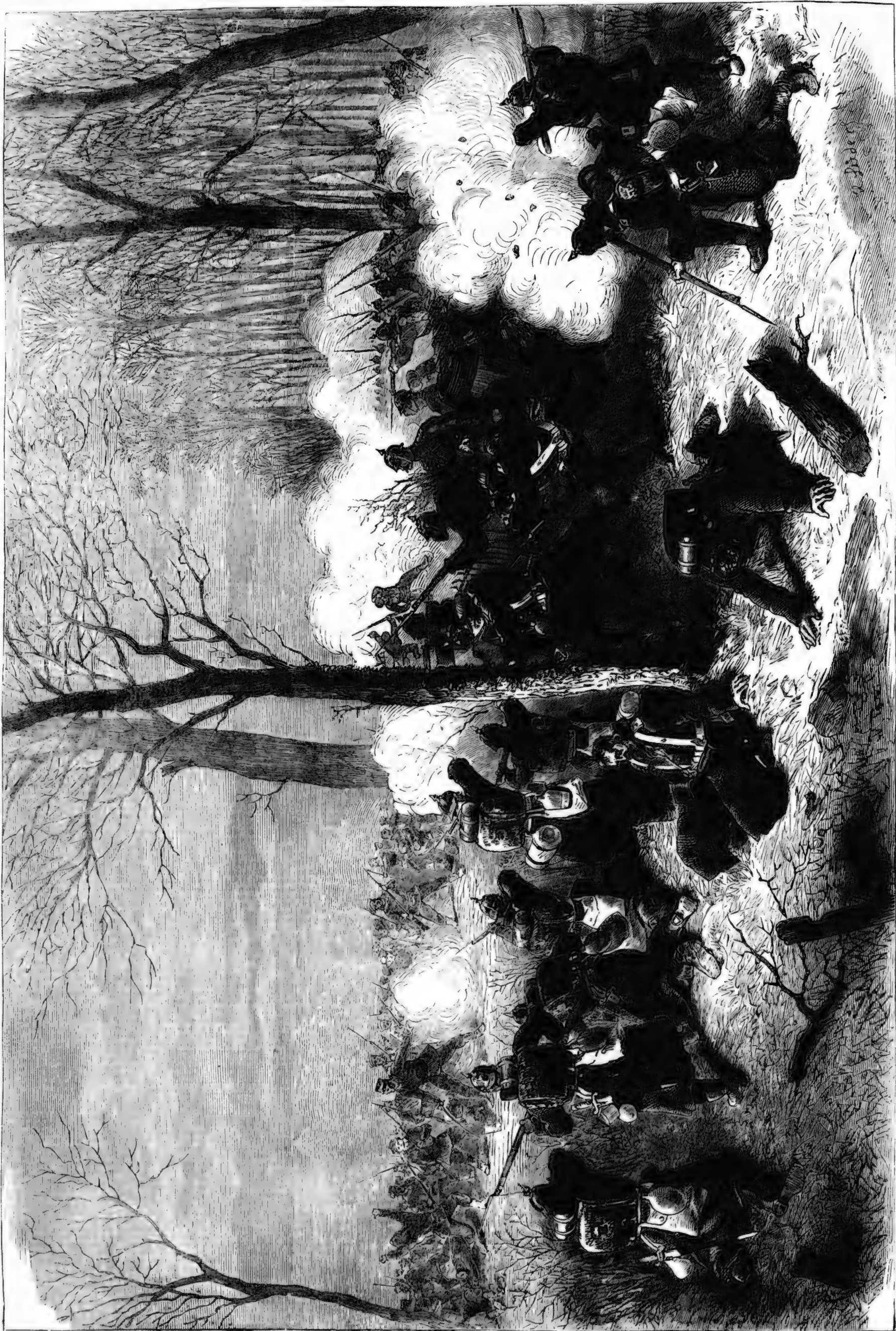
HOME-GROWN CURRANTS.—At the meeting of the Royal Botanic Society, Regent's Park, last Saturday, the secretary laid on the table a sample of Zante or pudding currants, grown and cured in the society's garden. This sample is the produce of a vine grown from cane received in 1869, and is probably the first cured in this country. The principal portion, if not the whole, of this useful fruit is imported from the Greek islands, the average annual consumption in England alone exceeding 32,000 tons. Large quantities are also exported to India, Australia, and America; and there appears to be no doubt that this vine might be cultivated to perfection in many districts of the above-named countries, as well as the cooler parts of the West Indies, &c. The society had distributed plants to several persons connected with the British colonies, with a view to ascertain the climates best suited to the production of these currants.

PROFESSOR JOWETT ON SOCRATES.—Last Saturday afternoon the theatre of the Royal Institution, Albemarle-street, was densely crowded to hear Professor Jowett's second lecture on Socrates. The special points considered were the trial and death of the Athenian philosopher. The lecturer said he was not at all inclined to doubt that the "Apologia" attributed to Plato was his real work. It bore no evidence of being a forgery, and reflected Socrates on the occasion of his trial as we might expect from a knowledge of his life to find him. Professor Jowett, after dilating on the system of trial in vogue in the days of Socrates, which he characterised as a trial by a court consisting of one vast jury without a judicial head, proceeded to read the defence from the "Apologia" of Plato. The reason why Socrates was condemned to death was on account of his unpopularity. This unpopularity was ascribable to his zeal in exposing ignorance, and the enemies made by such like actions. There was to a certain extent an analogy between Socrates and the Christian ministry, with the difference that, whereas the mission of the latter was to expel vice, that of the former was to expose and expel ignorance. The lecturer concluded his address by reading an account of the closing hours of Socrates.

NAMING THE STREETS.—An important circular has been issued by the Registrar-General, urging Mayors and other local authorities to carry out the provisions of the Local Government Act, which enjoin that all streets should be named and all houses numbered that are under their respective jurisdictions. The circular has some interesting notes appended, particularly respecting London streets. It appears that the metropolis has 30,000 streets, of an average length of a furlong, or an eighth of a mile. The longest runs to a mile, and a few to even more. The numbers sometimes reach to 929, but never to a higher figure. The name of a new street in London is restricted to one word, with the addition of "street" or "road," or other analogous term. The latter term is applied to leading thoroughfares of considerable length. Lists of streets and of all changes in street names are published in London, the list showing also the parish in which each is situated—an example worthy of imitation by the authorities of all large towns. Experience has decided in favour of numbering the houses of a street so that all the numbers upon one side of the street shall be odd, and on the other side even. The rule is to make the left hand house at the end of the street nearest one central point (in London it is St. Paul's Cathedral) No. 1. Thus, with the back towards the central point, the odd numbers are on the left-hand side. In some English villages all the houses are numbered consecutively; and that system is also in use in Vienna, where every house has its number. For the purposes of the Census a system designating every house distinctly would prove of immediate utility. It would be also of permanent value for the registration of births and deaths, in the direction of letters, in registering electors, and, in short, in all administrative arrangements. It is to be hoped that mayors, corporations, and other local authorities may cheerfully co-operate in carrying out the Registrar-General's valuable practical suggestions. *Builder.*

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.—On Thursday a meeting of this institution was held at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Thomas Chapman, F.R.S., V.P., in the chair. Richard Lewis, Esq., the secretary, having read the minutes of the previous meeting, the silver medal of the institution and a copy of its vote inscribed on vellum were ordered to be presented to Mr. Paul Garoon, the coxswain of the Covent-garden life-boat, at St. Ives, Cornwall, together with £12 10s. to himself and the crew of the boat, in testimony of their recent gallant services in saving the crew of six men from the brigantine Queen, of Youghal, which stranded on Carrack Gladden beach during a very heavy north-west gale. Rewards amounting to £480 were also voted to the crews of various life-boats of the institution, for going off on service during the storms of the past month. Various other rewards were likewise granted to the crews of shore-boats for saving life from wrecks on our coasts. The institution had contributed altogether, during the past two months of the current year, to the saving of 279 lives from various shipwrecks. Payments amounting to £1662 were ordered to be made on various life-boat establishments. Various liberal contributions to the society were announced as having been received from Hull, Leeds, Bradford, Reading, Ipswich, and other places, including a further sum of £90 from the stewards of the Covent-garden Life-Boat Fund and a legacy of £50 from the late Mrs. Baillie, of Edinburgh, through the branch of the institution in that city. Four sisters had also given the society the cost of a life-boat to be named after themselves. Life-boats had been sent during the past month to Kingsdowne, Kent, and Greenacres, near London-derry; and new life-boats were ordered to be placed at Dungeness, Kent, and Dungarvan, Ireland. A grand National Life-Boat Bazaar had been held last month in Dublin, and had been most successful. The annual meeting of the institution is to take place on Tuesday, the 14th inst., at the London Tavern—his Grace the Duke of Northumberland, P.C., president of the society, in the chair. Reports were read from the inspector and assistant inspector of life-boats on their recent visits to various life-boat stations. The proceedings then terminated.

EXPLOSIVE BULLETS.—Marshal McMahon has replied, as follows, to a letter addressed to him by Count Bismarck:—"Wiesbaden, Feb. 17, 1871. Monsieur le Comte.—On receipt of the letter which your Excellency has done me the honour to send to me on the 11th of this month, I requested the generals of artillery, who are in considerable numbers at Wiesbaden, to give me their conscientious opinion on the question of knowing if explosive bullets could have been fired by our soldiers at Würth. All these officers have declared that it was impossible, because no explosive bullets had been made in France for the chassepot, and this kind of gun was the only one in the hands of the troops who fought at Würth. Further, M. le Comte, your Excellency can have search made in such of our ammunition chests as have fallen into the hands of the German army, and among the stores of our fortified places, and you will obtain the certainty that there existed no explosive bullets in France for the use of the army. You call on me to remark that on Jan. 22 the Maire of Paris ascertained that among the projectiles fired off in the neighbourhood of the Hôtel de Ville there were many explosive balls. This evidence is not of character to modify my way of looking at the matter. I have asserted that there did not exist any explosive bullets in the French army, and I did not pretend to affirm that there were none in Paris, or that in a disturbance no one would use them. I knew that on several occasions the gunsmiths' shops had been pillaged, and that these shops contained balls of this character, mostly of large calibre, intended for the destruction of wild animals. The report of Colonel von Bickdorff does not precisely establish that the explosives by which he was struck came from an explosive bullet. To explain how he might have been wounded at the same time by three projectiles technical details should be gone into, the discussion of which could lead to nothing at a time far removed from the occurrences. I should further inform your Excellency that statements of a similar character were made in the French army. After the battle of Sedan some wounds were attributed to explosive bullets; but this opinion, uttered by surgeons on seeing irregular fragments of lead taken from wounds, has never appeared more to us than a mere conjecture, against which we were to be on our guard, knowing how difficult it is to understand all the shapes which a ball may take in its course or the effects which may be produced from them. In conclusion, M. le Comte, I remain convinced that no explosive bullet was fired at Würth by the French. —Receive, &c., Marshal DE M'AHON." General Suzanne writes from Paris to give a formal denial of the idea that explosive bullets have ever been made for the French service to be used with weapons to be carried by men.



THE WAR: SCENE DURING THE BATTLE OF BELFORT.—(SEE PAGE 132.)

BARKER'S CREEK, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

In previous numbers of the *ILLUSTRATED TIMES* there have been published articles describing the advance of the Great Pacific Railway, and the enormous resources which it is likely to open up to the vast continent of America. It will not be without a definite influence in its immediate effect of bringing hitherto remote places within a comparatively easy distance, and what was once an expedition will consequently become an excursion. The rapid development of the system of transit in America will, in fact, involve a complete revolution in the means of occupying territory, and British possessions will reap some advantage from the swift enterprise of our American cousins. British Columbia has already become a familiar name, and thousands of emigrants who are bent on trying their fortune have turned thither in preference to the Mexican California, or even to Australia. It is true that the latest El Dorado has for a time been eclipsed by the diamond-fields of the Cape; but gold holds its own nevertheless, and the system of working, united to the legal adjustment of "claims" by Government authority, has led to the recognition of gold digging as a regular kind of industry, instead of a merely adventurous speculation, partaking more of the exigencies of romance than the steady application of intelligent labour.

The illustration which we publish this week will recall the earlier days of the Californian settlement, when San Francisco first became the capital, and townships consisted of cedar plank huts and sheds, and canvas stores and dwelling-houses. At Barker's Creek, however, sheds and huts held the pre-eminence; and many

of the stores were of some pretensions, even though the scene around was desolate and dreary enough to deter any but determined diggers to prolong their stay. The method of working the gold in Californian creeks differs considerably from that first in use in the Australian fields. The loose earth is often full of fine gold, which only needs washing out. Gathering the loose dry sand in bowls, the native diggers raise the bowls to their heads, and slowly pour the sand on to blankets at their feet. Repeating this several times, and throwing out the worthless pieces of rock, they reduce the dust to about half its bulk. Then, balancing the bowl in one hand, by a quick dexterous motion of the other, they cause it to revolve, at the same time throwing its contents into the air, and catching them as they fall. In this manner everything is finally winnowed away, except the heavier grains of sand, mixed with gold, which is carefully separated by the breath. It is, however, a laborious occupation not attempted by any but the natives. The American and European diggers like to go in for heavier chances, the tools mostly used by them being the crowbar, pick, and knife; and many of them who work in the mountain ravines follow the veins under strata of rock which lie deep below the surface, so that they are compelled to work while lying flat on their backs in cramped and narrow holes sometimes kept moist by springs. British Columbia, however, is rising out of the semi-barbarism which suffices for a merely temporary occupation of such districts as Barker's Creek, and the gold fever abates, leaving the healthy, settled industries among the community and townships, with regular dwellings,

public buildings, and municipal governments, in place of rude villages of planks and timber, with only a kind of council of war to regulate affairs and make laws for the common safety.

THE PRUSSIAN SIEGE TRAINS.

The siege trains of Prussia and her satellites in the North German Confederation were, before the war, two in number, and contained every known requisite for attacking the fortresses of such an enemy as France. Each of the trains contained 200 guns, besides mortars; but the artillerymen and engineers have decided that the 560 pieces ready at all times to be sent across the frontier were not nearly sufficient, nor was the average power of the guns themselves entirely satisfactory. Each siege train had 60 long steel 24-pounders, firing projectiles of about 60 lb. weight English; 100 bronze 12-pounders, with shells weighing about 30 lb.; and 40 steel 6-pounders—or, as we should call them, 15-pounders. The mortars included in the regular siege trains were all smooth-bored; the six rifled mortars used at Strasbourg and before Paris were among the pieces added to the trains for special purposes. The number provided by regulation was 20 mortars of about 12-in. calibre, called 50-pounders; 20 of 9-in. calibre, called 25-pounders; and 40 small bronze 7-pounder or 15-centimetre mortars, for the advanced trenches. The men who are to serve the guns come from the fortress artillery, of which there are eighty-four companies. Each company is 100 men strong in time of peace, 200



THE GOLD-FIELDS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA: BARKER'S CREEK, CARRIBOO.

strong in war, the additional men being drawn from the reserves and landwehr. When the land is at peace, the men are distributed through the fortresses, and have a certain amount of practice every year. But the German artillery officers have not been at all satisfied with the accuracy of the shooting during the bombardment of Paris. Even when the forts were not firing and the guns were served with every possible care the practice fell far short of what is known to be the capability of the weapons; and not only so, but the breech-loading parts became damaged much sooner than they ought to have been had the men been perfectly instructed. All the siege pieces were breech-loaders; and though for siege purposes muzzle-loading ordnance would have few advocates even in England, the want of all the precautions common on practice-grounds brought it to pass that gas escaped very soon, and the rear end of the barrel, where it abuts on the wedge which closes it, became covered with radial indentations, so that to fire any more would be dangerous. There were no means of rectifying the damage on the spot, therefore the gun so affected became unserviceable, and had to be dismounted and taken to the park, where the damaged parts were cut out and a new steel ring made and screwed into the hole. Exactly the same circumstance has occurred frequently with the field-guns during the campaign; and I have been informed, on excellent authority, that no less than twenty-four steel breech-loading field-guns became unserviceable in one day among those used by the army of Prince Frederick Charles before Orleans. The officer on whose authority I make this statement is himself an advocate of breech-loading field-guns, for the curious reason, disproved again and again by facts, that a breech-loading gun must shoot better than a muzzle-loader. This one fact is surely enough to condemn a system which leaves room for such mischances. It does not, however, follow that a satisfactory breech-loader can never be found; and when it is found, it should, in my opinion, be adopted—not for any of the reasons hitherto given in argument, but for this practical one:—War is fast becoming the attack and defence of posi-

tions strengthened by field-works which are armed with field-guns firing through embrasures. Now, it would be the simplest and easiest possible precaution to carry an iron mantelet for each piece, just strong enough to resist the fire of small-arms, and large enough to cover the neck of the embrasure. It is not pleasant to serve guns under infantry fire, and such mantelets would give protection even against shrapnel. Wooden mantelets have been used by the Prussians in this war, and some of them may even now be seen standing in the emplacements thrown up round Paris to keep in the French army. A very accessible example is to be found at the park of St. Cloud, in the "Stern" redoubt, a light work made to fire down several different avenues through the trees. All siege guns should be breech-loaders for the same reason, but the difficulty of finding a system sufficiently strong for heavy guns has not yet, apparently, been surmounted. The experiments made in Germany and Russia have been so limited, and there has been so much narsing of the experimental guns, that no English artillerymen can be satisfied with them. It should not, however, be forgotten by those responsible for such matters that the English Ordnance Select Committee once made a strong recommendation that a series of experiments should be set on foot, and earnest endeavours made to find that much-to-be-desired achievement—a strong, simple, heavy breech-loading gun. I believe it may be found, and will be worth much to the nation which first finds it.

The list of Prussian siege pieces given above shows that part of the pieces are of steel, part of bronze. It has been decided that the whole of the field artillery constructed for the future is to be of bronze. The Russians are equally well satisfied with the same material. The motive is economy. There are so many guns required for the huge armies of the great military Powers that it is necessary to save every possible shilling upon their material. Bronze guns can be re-cast when unserviceable; steel guns last longer, but are perfectly valueless when their work is done. On the other hand, it is a curious fact, and one which has puzzled the

Artillery Committee at Berlin, that the bronze guns never shoot so accurately as the steel. It is not that they wear out sooner, because the difference is equally perceptible at the first round. Several reasons have been assigned, but none has yet been proved to be the right one.

The Prussian artillerymen of the siege train build their own batteries, lay the platforms for the guns, and put up such shelter as they may think needful. I cannot say that I have been struck by the excellence of their works, which are a great contrast to those of the French. The guns seem too crowded, the bomb-proof shelter sometimes insufficient, and the splinter-proof traverses too slight. There is no doubt that the men could not always stand to their guns, and that the forts suffered far less than was expected. It is also certain that the bombardment was delayed for want of means, and that Paris did not fall a single day sooner because of it. Common shells were fired generally through the day, shrapnel at night and in fog. The apparatus for laying the guns at night was simple and good. Iron plates marked with divisions were fastened across in front and rear of the carriage, and corresponded with index lines on longitudinal iron plates bolted down to the platform. By observing where the index lines stood with reference to the divisions on the cross-plates when the gun has been carefully laid by day, and then bringing the carriage into the same position at night or in mist, good line was always certain. Nor was it necessary to force the carriage exactly into the same position. Suppose that the front pointer stands at No. 4 division on its plate, and the rear pointer at No. 7, when the piece is accurately laid. In the recoil and run-up again it is possible that the front pointer will come to No. 3 instead of No. 4. Must, then, the whole apparatus—gun-carriage, wheels, and all—be cross-lifted with much labour till it comes to No. 4? By no means. It is only necessary to bring the trail to No. 6 instead of No. 7. The difference between the two numbers, and therefore the angle at which the gun is standing, will be the same. The only alteration will be that the gun will be directed

at a point in the wall against which it shoots an inch or two right or left of its old aim, and this trifling variation is far less than may be created by a puff of wind or the slightest error in laying the piece on the object. The guns, being breech-loaders, do not require to be backed for loading, so they were made to run themselves forward after firing by a simple but effectual device. Hollow quoins (large wedges), about six feet long and a foot and a half high at the thick end, were placed with their points behind each wheel of the siege carriage. The charges were always what may be called small in England, and the carriage never had velocity enough given to its recoil to run it back beyond the quoin. The wheels rolled back up the incline, and the gun with its carriage ran down again by its own weight into its firing position. The platforms, which are quite flat, are carried in pieces with the siege trains. Five longitudinal sleepers for the larger guns and three for the smaller are laid down in small trenches just deep enough to hold them fast, but keep their tops above the ground. Across them are placed 3-inch planks till a platform is constructed 18 ft. long by 9 ft., perfectly plain, smooth, and level. When excessive elevation had to be given to the guns, as when the city was to be bombarded, the carriage was drawn back until its trail was off the platform, and rested in a hole made in the ground to receive it.

The first siege train went to Strasbourg, and was used there as well as before Phalsbourg, and all the smaller fortresses on the left of the German advance. The second was destined for Paris, but was partly consumed in the attack of the northern fortresses. There was little left for the great siege, and the fortresses of Germany had to contribute guns for the bombardment of Paris. The rifled mortars, or some of them, had been already used at Strasbourg, and a new gun, designed by Captain Müller, and introduced into the service just before the war, was added to the armament of the siege batteries. It is called the "short 24-pounder or 15 centimetre gun," and is, in reality, little more than a rifled howitzer. The long 24-pounder was found to be rather heavy, and the curved fire most wanted could be obtained more easily and quickly from a shorter piece, firing a smaller charge. With a powder cartridge of only 3 lb., and projectiles lengthened rather, but retained at their original weight by increasing the size of the hollow interior and lightening the lead coating, excellent effects were produced, and the shells contained a bursting charge of more than 4 lb. English. The carriage was also lightened, and the total result was the production of a gun, light and easily managed, but firing a shell weighing about 60 lb. English with a 4 lb. bursting charge. The velocity of the projectiles was not high; but the high curve of the flight enabled them to reach even the very foot of the escarp of Fort Issy, and it was these guns which effected the only damage at all like a breach during the whole bombardment. The French gunners were taking shelter in the casemates; not all the shells were to be directed upon Paris; and it is well that the firing came to be rather experimental practice against masonry than serious attack of living bodies of men. Prussian artillery and engineer officers seem to agree that curved rather than horizontal fire will play the principal part in future sieges. Their opinion is that the first batteries should be built on any good positions within 3000 or 4000 yards of the place. The guns should not stand too close, so that the enemy can find nothing worth concentrating a fire upon. It is supposed that they will subdue the fire of their antagonists sufficiently to allow of the opening of the first parallel with the slightest possible loss. But it is quite recognised that fortresses cannot be reduced by bombardment, but must be attacked by trenches and saps. Toul was so bombarded, and from such commanding positions that, to use the words of an officer who was present, "We shut the doors of the houses; no one could go out into the street and live." Yet it bravely held out until regular approaches were commenced. Under such circumstances, is it quite right to bombard a town at all? A future generation must answer this question.—*Military Correspondent of the "Times."*

MUSIC.

A TRIAL of the Royal Albert Hall took place on Saturday last, when a concert was given to the workmen engaged in its construction and a large number of their friends. The performers were a body of amateur instrumentalists who, with the Hon. Seymour Egerton as conductor, have done much and varied duty under the style and title of "Wandering Minstrels;" the vocal portion of the programme being intrusted to Mrs. Nassau Senior and Miss Anna Williams. It was assumed by the managers that Messrs. Lucas's workmen possessed taste in music of a sort not common to their order. At all events, the programme contained little save classical music; as, for example, the overtures to "Masaniello" and "Oberon," the march from "Tannhäuser," and a few songs by Sullivan and Clay. We are much disposed to doubt if the working-class audience really enjoyed what was set before them; but the main object was to test the acoustics of the building, and we daresay the result of the trial satisfied those who put faith in the hall as a place for facile hearing. Indeed, it went to prove that hearing may be too facile; and, unless we are very much deceived, the South Kensington magnates will have some trouble in preventing the too free transmission of sound. Everywhere in the upper parts of the building an echo interferes materially with the enjoyment of musical performances; and only in the lower portions of the amphitheatre is it absent in an endurable degree. Happily, to stifle an echo is easier than to make one; and there can be little doubt that before long the Royal Albert Hall will be one of the best in England for concert-giving purposes. The audience who "assisted" at the experiment numbered near upon 8000, and was made up of all classes, from the contractors' mortar boys to Sir Michael Costa.

While the huge and ugly building at Kensington-gore was being tested a concert took place at the huge and beautiful palace which stands on Sydenham-hill; and an excellent concert it was. The programme comprised Schumann's symphony No. 1 in B flat; Cherubini's overture, "L'Hôtellerie Portugaise;" Spohr's 15th violin concerto, played well by Mr. Henry Holmes; and Berlioz's overture, "Benvenuto Cellini." How this "feast of fat things," supplemented by the admirable singing of Mdlle. Leon Duval and Mr. Santley, gratified a numerous audience there can be no need to tell. Enough that the selection and the performance fully sustained a reputation acquired by years of hard and conscientious labour. These Crystal Palace concerts should be valued at their true worth. We have nothing like them elsewhere, and their discontinuance would be a blow to music in this country of the most serious character.

An average programme sustained the interest of the St. James's Hall Popular Concerts on Monday last. It contained nothing new, however; and we may make bold to ask whether Mr. Chappell means to depart from the original scheme, and bring forward only those works which have made themselves favourites with the audience? Finality is as absurd a doctrine in art as in politics, and we are sorry to note that Mr. Chappell is fast becoming a convert to it. He forgets that the region of chamber music still unexplored is vast and presumably rich in wealth. He forgets, moreover, that the "Pops" once had a mission higher than the mere ringing of changes upon a few select compositions which bring money into the treasury.

The Welsh Choral Union, a society of which Mr. John Thomas (Pencerdd Gwalia) is the presiding genius, made its first public appearance on Monday, at the Store-street Hall. As yet, the proceedings of this new body deserve little notice. The members and their conductor must work steadily, and work hard, before they can lay claim to an advanced position among metropolitan societies. As might have been expected, the programme contained a large selection of Welsh national airs and quasi-Welsh music from the pen of Mr. John Thomas; most of which was sung in a style evidently satisfactory to the audience. The professionals engaged were nearly all Welsh, and included such names as Miss Edith Wynne, Miss Megan Watte, Mr. Lewis

Thomas, and Mr. Brinley Richards. What these worthy representatives of the Principality did need not be specified in detail; nor need it be stated that each was enthusiastically applauded by an audience full of admiration for everything Cambrian.

Mr. Ransford gave his annual concert in St. James's Hall on Tuesday evening, and had to refuse admission to scores of would-be patrons, owing to want even of standing room. This result was explained by the programme, which presented the names of Mdlle. Liebart, Madame Patey, Miss Poole, Miss Ransford, Mr. Rigby, Mr. Reeves, Mr. Santley, Mr. Henry Phillips, Mr. Ransford, Mr. Brinley Richards, Mr. Lazarus, and a lady who has recently become known to the English public as Princess Emma Matchinsky. No wonder that, with the attraction of such artists, and a long list of popular songs, the hall was crammed to repletion, and the gratification of the audience demonstratively expressed. We have no space for details, nor would any useful purpose be served by them, enough that each artist sang songs prominently connected with the name of the singer; and nearly all obtained the honour of an encore. Princess Emma Matchinsky was indisposed, and it will be fair to postpone an opinion upon her ability.

Mendelssohn's "Elijah" was given in St. James's Hall, on Wednesday, under Mr. Barnby's direction; and "St. Paul" was announced to be performed last night in Exeter Hall.

PROFESSOR SEELEY ON THE PREVENTION OF WAR.

On Tuesday Professor Seeley, Modern History Professor in the University of Cambridge, delivered a lecture before the members of the Peace Society on "The Possible Means of Preventing War in Europe," at the Friends' Meeting-House, Houndsditch. A large number of Friends and others availed themselves of the invitation to attend, and exhibited much sympathy with the Professor's sentiments. Mr. J. W. Pease, M.P., who presided, briefly introduced the lecturer, remarking upon the sad and lamentable spectacle of two Christian nations exercising their energy and enlightenment in the attempt to effect each other's annihilation.

Professor Seeley set out by saying that everybody was agreed as to the necessity of war being for ever abolished, and then proceeded to rebut the arguments of those who endeavoured to force their conviction on the minds of others that war, if net in itself a good thing, was associated with so much good that it could not possibly be avoided, or rather, that human nature was so prone to disagreement and violent assumption that the abolition of war would involve a recreation or reconstitution of man upon a less noble type. If, as alleged, there was in the horrors of war anything that could by any possible view be considered grand or beneficent—if by any possibility any justice could be claimed for war, it was evident that neither of justice, nor of grandeur, nor of beneficence was there sufficient to warrant the continuance of wholesale slaughter of human beings, if any possible means could be devised whereby to make it unnecessary in future. If no other method was possible of obtaining international justice and satisfaction, then it might be said to be defensible, and any efforts to put an end to war would be futile. After what had latterly been witnessed, the Peace Society could not very well claim that their principles were making much headway. War was no longer the exclusive privilege of Kings and aristocracies. Peoples now engaged in it; and, in the event of their relishing the luxury, wars would become undoubtedly more gigantic and sanguinary than was ever the case heretofore. If only peoples could be made to understand that it was possible to devise a substitute for war—something that should render bloodshed unnecessary—a great step would be achieved. War, in his opinion, was an unnecessary and an abolishable thing; and the object of his lecture was to offer some suggestions to those who might wish to find out in what way an international arbitration—an arbitration which should amicably settle all questions of difference between nations, in other words peoples—could be practically realised. He was aware that many very excellent men thought the tribunal of war better than no tribunal at all, and, on the other hand, the mistake made by peace advocates was a disinclination to enter into details respecting the arbitration argument in order to convince people of its feasibility. Admirable as were the descriptions of the horrors of war given by MM. Erkmann-Chatrain, and graphically told as had been during this war the particulars of many of the battles fought between the French and Germans, they would not bring about the desired end. But what above everything was calculated to accomplish the object was a carefully-detailed scheme of arbitration to secure international justice. If ever the question arose as to whether the trial, in the case of an international dispute, should be by battle or by law, he took it that the people who suffered most would decide in favour of the latter. The war giant, whom now we kept as we kept the hangman, regarding him as a necessary but detestable drudge, would then be set upon by a triumphant populace. A system of international arbitration would doubtless involve a vast number of political changes, but it was not a Utopian scheme. It, in the first place, required an organisation essentially different from—and, indeed, could not be developed out of—the already existing system by which European nations stood in relation to each other. There would have to be a federation of all the Powers—the great Powers—for it was they, and not the small States, which caused the conflagrations on the earth's crust. It was the complications arising out of the jealousies of Russia, Prussia, France, England, and Austria that provoked war, and not the petty quarrels of Belgium, Holland, and the like. It should be a federation, not after the model of the late German Bund, but of the United States. To ensure success, the power of levying troops should be assigned to the federation only, and be denied absolutely to the individual States constituting the federation. There should be a law court for nations the same as for individuals. Europe should have a constitution as well as the States that composed Europe. There should be representation by population as well as by States. The federation should have an executive force greater than that of any of its component States. These constituted the heads of the learned Professor's plan to prevent war in Europe, and having enlarged upon them, he resumed his seat amid loud applause.

Mr. Richard, M.P., secretary of the Peace Society, proposed a cordial vote of thanks to Professor Seeley, and in doing so said the society would give its most careful, respectful, and deliberate consideration to the suggestions offered. Until that was done he expressed no opinion individually upon them, other than that they did great credit to the learned Professor's intellectual capacity and humanity.

The Rev. Thomas Binney seconded the motion, making the humorous remark that the lecturer had omitted to state who was to be the president of the federation.

Professor Seeley acknowledged the compliment accorded him, and the audience then dispersed.

A WHALE-HUNT IN SHETLAND.—A shoal of finner or spotted casking whales entered Bressay Sound a few days ago, on the cessation of the heavy storm which had raged for thirty hours previously. A great number of boats at once went out in pursuit, and, after much manoeuvring, succeeded in chasing the shoal into the Bight of Gremista, north of the town of Lerwick, where they were driven on shore and captured. A great part of the population was congregated on the shore watching the hunt, which was rendered exciting by the shouts and firing from the boats and the furious rushes and splashing of the whales as they were being driven ashore. When they had been forced into shoal water, their pursuers leaped after them and harpooned the floundering cetacean. The sea at the spot was discoloured from the blood flowing from their wounds and ejected from their spout-holes. When fairly aground, the whales rolled over and over, lashing with their tails, and snorting and whining like wounded dogs, and sending showers of bloody spray over the spectators on the beach. Single whales often broke away through the line of boats, and required a good deal of effort to prevent their escape into the Sound. At length the whole shoal of eighteen whales were safely landed, secured with ropes, and arranged side by side on the beach. The scientific name of the variety is the Globis capellus melas, and the specimens caught varied in length from 15 ft. to 24 ft.

PARISIAN CONSPIRATORS.

Paris, Feb. 26.

It happened that yesterday afternoon I was enjoying a sun-shine stroll in the Palais Royal. The Palais Royal has never-ending charms for me, a semi-savage as I am, fresh from ruined villages and requisitions. It was near noon, at the left-hand corner of the colonnade. There two blouses are looking about very inquisitively. I don't know why I should get on the other side of the pillar, and lean there smoking my cigar and looking hard at that brat in tow of a *bonne*, but I do. The blouses mutter, with occasional bursts of gesticulation. I hear objurgations of the *sacres Prussiens*, and a sputtering furious protest about the entry. There is a talk about death for *la Patrie*, and an ultimate suggestion of common hunger, which results in the proposal of an adjournment to a neighbouring café. Thither the patriots adjourn arm in arm. Thither I follow leisurely, having time to notice that one patriot seems to be constrained in the region of the boots, the other very much "down in the stern," as we would say of a ship, owing to the multiplicity of weighty articles in his coat-tail pockets. My patriots, when I entered, were already located at a side table, eating boiled beef. I took a place at the next table, and proceeded in my turn to attempt the mastication of boiled beef. But it was speedily obvious that my patriots had thoughts above boiled beef. They asked for salad, but the salad was merely a whet. They began to talk of the German entrance, looking round meanwhile somewhat distrustfully. I fell asleep, and the other luncheon-eaters, one by one, went away. So the patriots had freedom of speech.

The topic of discussion again was the German entrance. My patriots were conspirators. Their conspiracy was yet *quod id* manner of execution *in nubibus*. They seemed to be quite assured that the German troops were coming in, and unable to do anything to stem the current. They were not bellicose, Alphonse and Jules; they seemed to have given up any idea of the success of a free fight, even in the old Parisian barricade style, against these "cursed Prussians;" but they meant nevertheless to be dangerous after their own fashion. Alphonse knew a girl that lived in the Rue Rivoli, at one or other of the corners of a certain cross street. He did not care twopenny for his life, not he. Indeed, he would rather that he lost it; always for *la Patrie*, be it understood. Alphonse was prepared to assume an elevated position on the roof of the corner house and drop the contents of a certain weapon, to which he made enigmatical references of a character which led me to infer that it would shoot round a corner, on the devoted head of the "thrice accursed Emperor of the beastly Germans," as he proceeded on his way to the Tuileries. But the question became complicated after this Spartan resolution. We have all heard of benignant philanthropists who subscribe £100 on condition that 350 other philanthropists are found ready and willing to subscribe the same sum, and who escape their obligation if the 350th contributor is not forthcoming. Alphonse belonged to this order. There was that "son of ten thousand little dogs," Bismarck, to cease to exist; there was that spectacled progeny of an ass, von Moltke, also to be annihilated. The Crown Prince, the perpetrator of the Finnish Teutonic dynasty, was to require more or less Christian burial; and, as the Beaune warned the sanguinary pair, vague but blood-thirsty threats were vented *sotto voce* against the second "Staffel." Subsequent to the projected extermination of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, the two conspirators arrived at the conclusion that their own unaided prowess could not achieve all they desired; and a rendezvous of desperadoes was arranged for eight o'clock p.m., in a certain wine-shop off the throat of the Rue de Paris, the most dangerous spot in all dangerous Belleville. And so, with clouded brows and pursed lips, Alphonse and Jules stalked out of the café, leaving me still asleep.

I awoke, and the desire seized me to see how this profound conspiracy would eventuate. The garçon of my hotel was prolific in blouses. He had a cap with a National Guard number on it. Likewise he had a pair of wooden shoes. All these he was willing temporarily to cede for a consideration, and the bargain was soon struck. When the shades of night descended I sought the summit of a diligence, and was tardily conveyed into the vicinity of the Rue de Paris. Some difficulty I experienced in finding Le Lapin Blanc; but at length I discovered that *récherché* establishment. As I had intended, my advent was earlier than that of Alphonse and Jules. I found a quiet corner, called for a book of beer, lighted my meerschaum, and bided my time.

Presently the two entered. I was glad when I saw them take a table some distance off me. For a while the room was comparatively empty. Habitués came dribbling in one by one. A youth in pantaloons with patent ventilation, occasioned by holes, produced a revolver, which he laid on the table before him, and solemnly announced that it contained six chambers, each of which contained a bullet destined for the *sacres Prussiens*, if they should dare to enter Paris. Alphonse and Jules beckoned him over to their table, and fraternisation of a demonstrative character, not unaccompanied with kisses, was the result. Pierre—that was the name of the recruit—was so proud of his weapon that I trembled for the life of Alphonse as he demonstrated its advantages. But was Pierre the only brave man who was a visitor to Le Lapin Blanc? By no means. A perfect desperado of a chiffonnier came to the front, breathing out threatening and slaughter. Recruits spring up from the back benches—so to speak. We were all ready for anything—all we wanted was organisation. Alphonse was undoubtedly in the possession of the patent right of the idea; but a dealer in rags claimed Crimean experience, and presumed, in virtue thereof, to impugn the wisdom of Alphonse's suggestions. Alphonse—that was settled—was prepared to die for *la Patrie*, by potting the German Emperor from the corner of the cross street, always providing that his female acquaintance there would enable him to gain the vantage coign of the attic; but, then, who was there to do for Bismarck and the ruck of the rest of them? Jules proposed a dash and the bayonet. The ragman opposed this with all his eloquence, which was not inconsiderable. The latter had red stripes on his trousers, and said he had killed a Prussian at Le Bourget. This task, supposing he had accomplished it, seemed to have been so arduous as to impress him with a strong conviction as to the physical strength of the Teutons; he deprecated a dash, and advocated a resort to air-guns. A black-whiskered gentleman, who had been hitherto silent, muttered a reference to the cost of these weapons, and this practical observation resulted in a subscription for their purchase, which amounted to 1 franc 20 centimes. Nobody had priced air-guns, but it seemed a general impression that this sum would not admit of a large investment in this species of lethal weapon, and a pallid collector of street trifles sardonically suggested that peashooters would do instead. Alas, for the conspiracy! Bismarck and the rest of the hated races may bless their stars that the spirit moved the gentleman of peculiar avocation to interpolate this sarcastic remark, which was truly the apple of discord. Alphonse struck at once. His patriotic feelings were wounded, he said. He wrapped his cravat around his throat as if he were wrapping "Cæsar's mantle" round him in the vicinity of Pompey's statue, and stalked off misanthropically. Jules, as it appeared, had some difficulty in following; it turning out that he was what the frequenters of taverns call a "quiet drinker," and had got silently drunk. The remaining patriots, headed by the chiffonnier, talked tremendously large for about twenty minutes, and, when they had exhausted their *choppes*, broke up with considerable noise and excitement.—*Correspondent of "Daily News."*

AT A MEETING OF THE LABOUR REPRESENTATION LEAGUE, last Saturday, much satisfaction was expressed with the Government Ballot Bill, especially that portion of it which deals with the abolition of hustings expenses. On the motion of Mr. Lloyd Jones, seconded by Mr. George Howell, the following resolution was carried unanimously:—"That this council heartily approves of the Government Ballot Bill, but urges that on Committee the hours of polling be extended and paid canvassing prohibited." A deputation was appointed to confer with Mr. Forster on the points mentioned in the resolution.

OBITUARY.

SIR CHARLES SHAW.—The public service has just lost one of its oldest and most efficient members in the person of Sir Charles Shaw, K.T.S., &c., who lately died at Homburg. He was at the time of his death in the seventy-seventh year of his age. Sir Charles was of Scottish extraction, being the third son of the late Mr. Charles Shaw, of Ayr, North Britain, and was born in the early part of the year 1795. He entered the 52nd Regiment of Foot at the age of eighteen, and, having served through the campaigns in Holland and Belgium in 1813 and 1814, was present with his regiment at Waterloo. In 1817 he was appointed to the 90th Regiment. In 1831 he joined the liberating army of Portugal in the Azores, in command of the marines belonging to the fleet of Admiral (now Sir George) Sartorius, and commanded a regiment throughout the civil war in Portugal. He was in every action and sortie during the siege of Oporto, in the course of which he was several times wounded. For his services in command of a brigade in repulsing the Miguelite army he was created a Knight Commander of the Portuguese Order of the Tower and Sword, and shortly afterwards was presented with a colonel's commission in the Portuguese army. In 1835 and the following year he acted as Brigadier-General in the British Auxiliary Legion in Spain, and took part in almost every engagement. In May, 1836, we find him commanding the Irish brigade in the successful attack on the heights before San Sebastian, and for his services on this occasion he was nominated a Knight Commander of the Spanish Order of San Fernando. More recently he held for many years the Chief Commissionership of the Police Force at Manchester. Sir Charles married, in 1841, Louisa Hannah, only daughter of the late Major Martin Curry, of the 67th Regiment of Foot. Sir Charles Shaw died at Homburg, where he had been residing for some years past, and, as he had the Waterloo medal, was buried with military honours. Prussian and French officers attended.

SIR GEORGE RAMSAY.—The death is announced, in his seventy-first year, of Sir George Ramsay, of Bamff House, Perthshire. The deceased Baronet was the son of Sir William, seventh Baronet, and succeeded his brother, as ninth Baronet, in 1859. He married, in 1830, Emily, daughter of the late Captain Henry Lennon, of the 10th Foot, and had issue three sons, the eldest of whom, James Henry, born in 1832, now succeeds to the baronetcy. This is a very ancient family, being lineally descended in the male line from Nessus de Ramsay, principal physician to Alexander II., King of Scotland, as appears by a charter from that monarch dated 1232, conferring on him the lands of Bamff and others adjacent in the county of Perth, which have been in the possession of the family ever since.

SIR BALDWIN LEIGHTON, BART.—We have to record the decease, on Sunday, of the above-named gentleman, who has occupied no very inconsiderable position among the worthies of Shropshire for some years past. Sir Baldwin was son of the sixth Baronet, by a daughter of Lord Stanley of Alderley, and was born at Sunderland, in 1805. He married, in 1832, the daughter of Mr. Thomas Netherton Parker, of Sweeney Hall, Salop. In 1855 he was unanimously appointed chairman of the Shropshire Quarter Sessions, the duties of which office he assiduously performed up to this time. In 1859 he was elected as representative of the Southern Division of Shropshire in the Conservative interest, and took an active part in promoting stringent game-preserving enactments; but in 1865 was defeated by Mr. Jasper More. He was an able magistrate, a rigid financier, and to his energetic exertions, perhaps, may be ascribed the fact that Shropshire is one of only two counties in England that are entirely out of debt. He succeeded in his title and estates by his son Baldwin, who was born in 1836, and is married to a daughter of Lord de Tabley.

DR. SYMONDS, OF BRISTOL.—This eminent physician died at Bristol, last Saturday, in his sixty-fourth year. Almost his last public appearance was as president of one of the sections at the autumnal meetings in 1869 of the Social Science Congress in Bristol. He was one of the original medical staff of the General Hospital in that city, which was opened in 1832, just as he settled there; and he was the author of many valuable works. The professional career of Dr. Symonds was, perhaps, as successful and eminent as that of any physician in England out of London; and whilst his intellectual qualities were so high, there were few men of more amiable or benevolent disposition, or more courteous and considerate. He was a native of Oxford, where his father was a surgeon; and he leaves a son and three daughters—Mr. John Symonds, ex-Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford; Lady Strachey, of Sutton Court, Somerset; Mrs. W. Cave, of Clifton Park; and Miss Symonds.

MRS. NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE.—This accomplished lady died at her residence in Shaftesbury-street, Kensington, on Sunday morning last. After the loss of her husband she came to Europe, and, along with her family, resided for some time in Dresden. There she prepared for the press her notes of travel and notices of several of the picture-galleries of Europe; and subsequently the interesting and characteristic "English Note-Book" of her husband, recently published. During her short stay in England last summer to see the last-named work through the press, she resolved to permanently take up her residence in England, remembering her husband's declaration that, "notwithstanding its mists and fogs, and many drawbacks, the climate of England was the best in the world." Scarcely, however, had she fixed upon a locality where many old friends resided, taken a house, and gathered into it the favourite books of her husband—works of art dear to herself, from her old home of The Wayside, in Concord, Massachusetts, United States—than during the severity of the recent changeable weather she caught a cold, which slowly ripened into a disease of a pleuritic character, she having suffered from something similar some years ago. Nothing serious, however, was apprehended until a few days since, when a sudden and unexpected change took place, and she gradually sank, happily without much pain or suffering, and died in the presence of her two daughters, two lady friends, and her medical attendants.

BREACH OF PROMISE OF MARRIAGE.
BUTCHER V. WRIGHT.

THIS action for breach of promise of marriage was tried in the Court of Queen's Bench, on Monday, before the Lord Chief Justice and a jury. The defendant pleaded the usual pleas. Mr. Lane was counsel for the plaintiff; Mr. H. James, Q.C., and Mr. Lanyon were counsel for the defendant.

The plaintiff, a young woman about twenty-seven years of age, was a dressmaker, and occasionally went into service; and the defendant, who was a small tenant-farmer of fifty acres, was seventy-three years of age, a widower, with three sons and a daughter. The defendant had known the plaintiff all her life, and he was acquainted with her grandfather in his younger days. All the parties resided near Braintree, and for some time the plaintiff lived with her uncle and aunt, who kept the Boar's Head in that town. The plaintiff, during the time they were engaged, wrote the defendant several letters of a very business-like and prosaic character, which he replied to in the same strain through a friend, he being unable to write. They were to be married in April last, but an estrangement took place. The defendant's daughter, however, died, and then he renewed his offer, but the plaintiff declined to marry him unless he made provision for her in case of his death. That he declined to do, or put her in business, as she said he had promised; and she then refused to marry, and brought this action.

The plaintiff's case was that the defendant promised to give her £200 to commence business on their marriage, and leave her £100 at his death. In cross-examination she said defendant's children were all over forty years of age, and living at home. She never went to his home. It was mutually agreed between them that they were not to let their relatives know anything about the engagement. She had some conversation about his advancing money for her to go into business, and on one occasion he asked her what security she could give, and she replied herself. The Lord Chief Justice—"One species of personal security." Plaintiff said she was to be put into a business because she objected to go to the farm, and defendant was to come there and live with her. When defendant refused to advance the money she had her suspicion that he did not mean "business." In one of her letters she asked him if he was married, because she had heard that he was talking to other girls. She did not know that he had lost all his teeth, and could not speak plain in consequence. When the defendant did not "come up" about the business, and keep his word, she kept copies of two of her letters to him. Before and after the action was brought, on Sept. 26 last, the defendant's solicitor, in a letter to her solicitor, said the defendant declined to pay anything like the sum asked, but that the old man was ready to marry her on Nov. 5, and take her to his farm. She objected because he declined to make any settlement on her. Her reason for declining to go to the farm was because she was not strong enough to do the work. She said she would marry him if he would agree to keep a servant. Her solicitor wrote to the defendant declining his offer. She wanted a sum of money down to be able to pay some debts she had incurred, and on Oct. 3 she wrote to the defendant to that effect—viz., "the settlement of a reasonable sum on herself and children, if any." The Lord Chief Justice—"There is a great deal, sometimes, in a parenthesis." Plaintiff said the defendant's solicitor wrote another letter stating that, as his daughter had died on the Monday and was buried on the Saturday, he was then in a fair position to take her to his home.

The Lord Chief Justice said the question was whether there really was a breach before action was brought, and if so, she could only recover nominal damages. He afterwards was clearly ready to marry her, and she had no right to insist on a settlement. By doing so she broke the contract. Furthermore, she had no right to stipulate for a servant. The old man never had kept a servant, his daughter in her lifetime having done the household work.

Ultimately a verdict was taken by consent for the plaintiff, damages one farthing, each party to pay their own costs. The Lord Chief Justice concurred, and said the action ought never to have been brought. Mr. H. James said the old man was still of the same opinion, and was determined to marry the plaintiff.

A HORRIBLE SCENE.—The Paris *Débats* of Monday gives an account of the popular demonstration on the previous day, which was marked by a fearful crime. Since Friday week—the anniversary of the Revolution of 1848—great crowds of people had assembled at the Place de la Bastille, where a perpetual parade of National Guards defiling in front of the Column of July was in progress. From six o'clock on the morning of Sunday until evening detachments marched up to the column, the ornamental figures around which were covered with crapes, and occasional addresses in praise of the Republic were delivered. Towards the afternoon a body of some 200 or 300 men were seen emerging from the Rue St. Antoine, escorting, or rather dragging, a well-dressed man, who, bareheaded, was held by the collar by two chasseurs-à-pied. Loud cries of "To the river!" "He is an informer, a spy of Pietri's!" were heard, while other voices exclaimed, "They want to restore their bludgeon days. No pity, away with spies!" It was stated that this person had been seen, pencil in hand, noting down the numbers of the battalions which made their appearance upon the Place. Upon being questioned by the two soldiers, he replied that it was no business of theirs, and it was asserted that he struck at them with a casse-tête. He was then seized, searched, and upon him were found a revolver and papers proving that he belonged to the police. This discovery exasperated the crowd, and the unhappy man was dragged towards the canal, into which he was about to be cast, when some better-disposed persons thrust him into the guard-house, and the officer commanding the post ordered the gates to be closed. The guards were thronged with an excited and furious crowd, who demanded the surrender of the prisoner, and the execution of the popular sentence. The officer climbed upon the railings and explained to the mob that it was his duty to

retain the prisoner in order that he might be conveyed to the Prefecture, and besought them to be calm. His exhortation was not listened to. Cries of "They want to let him escape!" "Give him up to us!" drowned his voice. Some foot chasseurs got over the railings and were followed by many of the crowd, and recaptured the poor wretch, whom the National Guards on duty made no effort to save. Blows fell thickly upon him; he was hustled and kicked, and appeared almost dead. There were at that time about 20,000 persons on the Place de la Bastille, but, although those who called for the death of their victim only numbered 400 or 500, of whom a great proportion were mere gamins, no attempt was made to prevent the execution of their bloodthirsty decree. The prisoner was dragged towards the Boulevard Bourbon, he begging to be allowed to shoot himself. The chasseurs who held him put him upon a bench, and submitted the question to the crowd, "Will you allow the prisoner to blow out his brains with his own revolver?" "No!" was the response, followed by cries of "To the water with him!" A move was then made towards the Quai Henri IV., and there, doubting whether their victim might not be able to swim, they took the precaution of tying his arms and legs, and in that condition carried as a mere bundle on to a barge, whence they flung him into the river. The current immediately bore away the helpless mass, at which showers of stones were hurled. Some men belonging to river steamers attempted to cast life-buoys to the drowning man, but they were driven off by the furious execrations of the mob and ultimately desisted. The body drifted under the piling at the point of the Ile Saint Louis and was no more seen. These horrible scenes lasted for upwards of two hours. Upon the Quai Henri IV. two persons who ventured to exclaim against these brutal proceedings were themselves assailed as police spies and threatened with death. Other persons were similarly treated, and barely saved themselves by opportune flight. In the mean time the Place de la Bastille continued to be thronged, and the cafés and wineshops drove a flourishing trade.

THE PLATE-GLASS INSURANCE SWINDLE.—Arthur M'Pherson Walker was charged before the Recorder, on Monday, with obtaining money by false pretences from Mr. Charles Thompson, a milliner, in Regent-street. The prisoner called upon Mr. Thompson, and representing that he was an agent of the Royal Scottish Plate-Glass Insurance Company, which he said was doing a large business, induced him to effect several policies of insurance with him, in respect of the glass of shops he had in different parts of London. There were afterwards several breakages of plate glass in one or other of the prosecutor's shops, some of which the prisoner caused to be repaired, but objected to reimburse the glass broken in two others, the damage in one case amounting to £14, and in the other to £25 10s. Upon that, inquiries were made about the alleged company, and it was found that its offices in the Strand consisted of one apartment on the second floor and a room at the back. The office staff consisted of a boy who was paid 5s. a week, and who stated that the prisoner usually sat behind a screen, and used to deny himself when people called on him for money. It was also proved that the prisoner gave a furniture-broker, who had supplied the company with office furniture, a bill for £22 odd in payment, and that it was dishonoured on arriving at maturity. The prisoner, besides, owed rent for the offices when he was apprehended. Previous to that the company had changed its name to that of the British and Foreign Plate-Glass Insurance Company, with a capital, as was alleged by the prisoner in a circular issued by him, of £10,000. It was proved, however, that the company had an account at the Temple Bar branch of the London and Westminster Bank, between April 12 and the beginning of June last, but that it never exceeded £100. A detective officer stated that he

had been engaged in trying to find the directors of the company, but in vain; and that he found the chairman was undergoing five years' penal servitude. The defence, in effect, was that the company, though a struggling, was still a bona fide concern. The prisoner was convicted, and the Recorder sentenced him to six months' hard labour.

MURDER IN LEICESTER.—A shocking murder was committed in the streets of Leicester last Saturday night. A drunken butcher, named Jonathan Barrows, 26, being jeered at by some boys as he was staggering along Clarence-street, pulled out a spring clasp dagger knife and attacked the first person he met in the street, a young man named Benford, whom he stabbed in the left breast. Barrows then went on stabbing right and left at everyone he met. A girl named Elizabeth Wye was wounded seriously in the back; George Glover was stabbed in the left arm; a man named Howes was stabbed in the back, and John Thomas Barnard received a severe cut in the left arm. Three police officers at length secured Barrows, and wrested the knife from him. Benford was removed to a surgeon's close by, where he died in about a quarter of an hour. The other persons injured were removed to their homes. Glover is in a precarious state, and the girl Wye is scarcely expected to recover. The prisoner, who is said to be respectably connected, has been committed for trial.

NEEDY AND GREEDY.—"Ursa Major" thus growls in the *Pull Mall Gazette*:—"Sir,—The following story is current in these money-getting quarters: When the bankers and others went to Versailles to pay the money requisitioned in Paris they were received by the officials of the Fatherland with the usual sponges and water for counting bank-notes. Every note having been counted, a demand was made for half the amount in gold instead of notes. The answer was made that no such sum existed in Paris. 'Where is it, then?' was the inquiry. 'In the succursales of the Bank of France,' was the answer. 'You must get it, then.' 'We can get it in three days if you will order the trains to be so disposed.' This was done. The gold was procured; but at the close of the transaction three days' interest was charged for the delay in a gold payment which had never been stipulated for. Having paid that, the bankers asked if anything further was to be charged. 'Yes; you must pay the stamps for the bills on London.' Count Bismarck was personally present at the close of this transaction.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, FEB. 24.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—C. BARKWORTH, Wakefield, tailor—C. KING, Battersea, beer retailer—C. G. RELPH, Arsenal, Woolwich—J. F. ROUGEMONT, Threadneedle-street, stockbroker.
BANKRUPT.—J. H. GLASSFORD, Great St. Helen's, merchant—J. H. ELEN, Edenbridge, hotel keeper—W. LESLEY, Glasgow, dealer in—J. W. MALLAM, Tunbridge Wells, Lieutenant 6th (Royal Irish) Lancers—C. PICKERING, Thirsk, butcher—J. REDFERN, Kingston-on-Hull, fishdealer—T. S. USHER, Yeovil, doctor of medicine—T. WOOD, Walford, farmer—J. CARROLL, Bedford Leigh, Lancashire, draper.
SCOTCH REQUISITIONS.—J. GORDON, Glasgow, potato merchant—W. BARRY, Leith, photographer—J. MOON, Dundee, merchant—F. SMITHSON, Glasgow, bookseller—H. C. FALCONER, Dumfries, tannery—A. REID, Trochrie, Dumfries, turner—J. F. WILSON, Leaburn, near Hawick, wool merchant.

TUESDAY, FEB. 28.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—J. MORSE, West Dean, Gloucestershire, coal haulier.
BANKRUPT.—W. BOWLER, Blechynden street, Netting-hill, victualler—C. CASTLEMAN, Baywater and Kingston, timber dealer and brick manufacturer—C. GOLDS, Lime-street, wine and spirit merchant—J. TURNER, St. Paul-street, Islington, chairmaker—S. S. WILSON, Burton-street, Mulino, builder—E. BAND, Northampton, draper—W. HARRIS, St. Anselm, draper—G. HARRISON, Dunston, ink-maker and farmer—C. S. HAY, Halifax, boot and shoe dealer—T. JOYCE, Bristol, beer-seller—C. HOLMAN, Kingston-upon-Thames, builder—M. MAURICE, Cranford, clerk in holy orders—A. G. NEALE, Greenwich, chesscomer—T. POOLY, Maidstone, time merchant—S. FOUNDER, Ilkeston, publican—J. STURGEON, Bolton, engineer—M. H. TUNALEY and J. BLAND, Chesham, builder—C. WARELIN, Fackney, brickmaker.
SCOTCH REQUISITIONS.—R. WATSON, Glasgow, scrap iron dealer—R. G. NEILL, Gogar Manis, farmer—G. RUTHERFORD, Bathgate, spirit dealer—J. TURNBULL, Dunse, tanner—M. YOUNG, Edinburgh, boarding-house keeper—W. A. ROBERTSON, Dufftown, merchant.

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Wander	4 0 0	Belgravia	7 15 0
Shakespeare	4 0 0	Howe (Ellis, Jun.)	8 0 0
Princess of Wales	4 0 0	Willcox and Gibbs	8 0 0
Dolphin	4 10 0	Wander	9 0 0
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